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How the WORLD **LIVES**

By J.V. NASH





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HOW THE WORLD LIVES

UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME

HOW THE WORLD GREW UP

The Story of Anthropology

RACES OF MEN

The Story of Ethnology

HOW THE WORLD SUPPORTS MAN

The Story of Human Geography

MAN AND HIS RECORDS

The Story of Writing

THE TONGUES OF MAN

The Story of Languages

MAN AND HIS CUSTOMS

The Story of Folkways

HOW THE WORLD IS RULED

The Story of Government

MAN AND HIS RICHES

The Story of Economics

THIS MAN-MADE WORLD

The Story of Inventions

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Publishers' Note

This book presents in popular form the present state of science. It has been reviewed by a specialist in this field of knowledge. An excerpt from this review follows:

"I think that the young readers will enjoy this book. The development of society is more important for them than for the older generation and these pages present it in an attractive way."

||

Signed: ELLSWORTH FARIS
Chairman, Department of Sociology
The University of Chicago

||



After the Middle Ages sailors began making long voyages and finding new lands

HOW THE WORLD LIVES

By

J. V. NASH

Drawings by

RICHARD S. RODGERS ✓



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CHICAGO
1931

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CHAPTER I

HOW PEOPLE FIRST LIVED TOGETHER

NOBODY wants to live all by himself—unless he is very queer. Anyway, how could he, unless he went off to some desert island? And he would probably be so unhappy there that he would soon want to come back. The worst thing that can be done to a person is to make him live all alone in a cell.

Even many animals live in flocks or herds or packs, helping one another in time of danger and finding pleasure in each other's company.

From the very earliest days of his life on earth, man has been like that. We say that he is "a social creature." By this, we mean that he has always lived with others of his kind. If this had not been so, he could not have escaped the terrible dangers he was always

*Why do people
live together?*

*Have men
always lived
together?*

facing in the days before men had powerful weapons and safe homes. It was only by staying together with his fellow men that he could fight off the wild beasts—the mammoth, the bear, the wolf, and the saber-toothed tiger. And the men had to be always on guard so the women and children could be safe.

The women and children did their part, too, in the work of the little group. While the men were busy fighting savage beasts and hunting other animals for food, the women and children took care of the home, which might be in a large cave. They gathered wood to keep the fire burning, they cooked the meat, they carried off the waste matter, they brought water from the river, and they made the cave cozy and comfortable.

In those days people had a hard struggle to keep alive at all. If each one had been selfish, thinking only of himself, he soon would have died. It was only by each one helping the others at all times and in every possible way

that the little group could hold its own against storm and drought and floods, against fierce animals, and against other people who tried to take their caves and hunting grounds.

So it was that the group in which the members helped each other the most became the strongest and enjoyed most of the good things of life. The children were able to get a better start in making their living. The group was usually made up of a few families, and in each family the father was the head.

The leader of the group was some wise old man. Everybody respected him a great deal. They also respected all the older people. And when these old folk died they were not forgotten. They could no longer be seen, of course, but everyone thought they were still living, in the land of spirits, and could help the group in different ways. So they still honored them. This respect for the dead in some tribes led to ancestor worship.

*Who was
the leader?*

The family is the oldest human group the

world has ever known. There have been families as long as people have been on earth, and that is hundreds of thousands of years.

Even among animals and birds we may find groups that are much like human families. The father hunts for food and fights off enemies, while the mother stays at home and looks after the little ones until they have learned to get their own food and are big enough to take care of themselves.

The family in those days was larger than our families today. There would be many children, and also perhaps the old grandparents, as well as uncles and aunts. There were usually a few such families living near each other, each helping the others in time of danger, and the men joining in the hunt.

Finally, the group would be made up of quite a number of such families. It was then called a tribe. The families in the tribe were related to each other, but not so closely as before. A tribe sometimes was named after

some *totem*. The totem was a certain animal, perhaps a turtle, a bear, a beaver, or a buffalo. This animal was supposed to protect the tribe, and everybody in the tribe thought a great deal of the tribe's totem. Sometimes it was a plant. The tribe was called by the name of its totem.

Now the tribe did not have the kind of government that we have in our country. Neither were there any written laws, or courts and policemen to make people obey them.

How could people manage to live together in peace without laws? Well, they had something just as good for the sort of life they lived. They had customs, or *folkways*, just as we do and they had rules against doing certain things, these rules being called in one language *taboos*. Everybody followed the folkways in his daily life and carefully obeyed the taboos.

But if a person broke these customs and rules, he was not put in prison, for there were no prisons. But something worse was done to

*Were there
any laws in
the tribe?*

him—he was made an outlaw. People would refuse to have anything to do with him, and he was cast out of the tribe. He might even be killed. It was a terrible punishment to be put out of the tribe, because a person in those days just had to belong to some tribe. He couldn't live all alone, because the dangers were so great. So nobody wanted to become an outlaw, and everybody took good care to respect the tribal customs and taboos.

These customs and taboos, as we have just said, were not written out for every member of the tribe to read them. Writing had not been invented in those early days. But they were handed down, by the older people telling the younger ones.

The taboos, or rules against doing certain acts or touching forbidden things, were very important, so let us look at them a little closer. We have all heard this word *taboo*. We say that something is taboo when we mean that it is forbidden, that people must not do it. Now

*What are
taboos?*

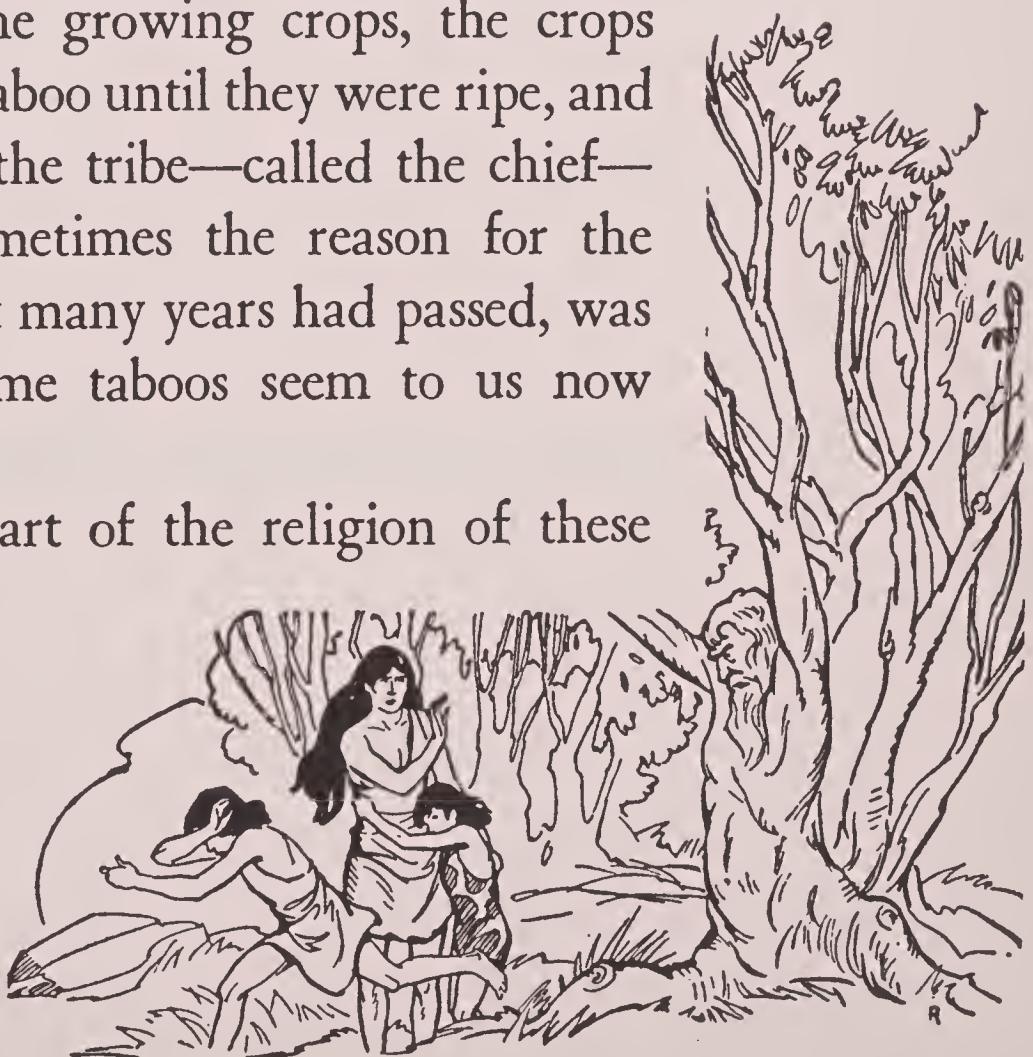
tribes of people all over the world have had taboos. But the word itself comes from the South Sea Islands, and means *marked off* or *forbidden*. It was a warning that there was danger in touching or handling the thing marked off.

We have customs somewhat like taboos. For instance, we do not eat snakes or wolves. The notion of taboos also is something like what happens among us when a person gets a disease that is "catching," such as diphtheria or scarlet fever. The Health Department puts a card on the front door to warn people away. Poisonous plants also were taboo. In the same way, to protect the growing crops, the crops were put under a taboo until they were ripe, and the head man of the tribe—called the chief—tasted them. Sometimes the reason for the taboo, after a great many years had passed, was forgotten, and some taboos seem to us now very queer.

Taboo was a part of the religion of these

*How did
taboos begin?*

*Taboos forbade
people to do
certain things*



What is a
fetish?

What was
magic? •

early people. They did not at first have gods, but some tribes thought there was a great power called *mana*, and that this mana might go to live in all sorts of things, such as a rock, a stick of wood, a tool, a pebble, a piece of bone, and so on. Other tribes had charms, called *fetishes*. People believed that the fetishes would help them, and bring them good luck.

Another part of the tribe's religion was *magic*. By magic we mean certain acts that people thought would make things they wanted happen. We use the word *magic* today when a man takes a rabbit out of a hat that we were sure was empty, and we cannot tell where the rabbit came from. Of course we know that the man has just played a trick on us, that he has fooled us. But the people who lived in tribes really believed in magic.

The man who was most clever in doing the magical acts in those days was called in some tribes a *medicine-man*. When the tribe needed a good supply of game or fish, or rain to water

the crops, or victory in warfare, the medicine-man would be often called in to do his magic, with other men helping him.

If the weather was very dry, the medicine-man would speak some strange words, called a *spell*, and perhaps shake a rattle. Or great fires might be built, from which black smoke would rise, which looked like rain clouds. If a good crop of melons was wanted, then stones shaped like melons would be scattered on the ground. If fish were scarce, then a number of men would go to the river bank, one of them would jump into the water and the others would catch him and pull him to shore, as if he were a fish.

All this sounds very strange, does it not? But that was the way those early men were trying to get food, so as to make life more comfortable. After many centuries people began to see that trying to get things by magic was useless. They saw that nature was ruled by great laws, and that it was by knowing

*What did the
medicine-man
do?*

about these laws that they could get all sorts of good things. That was how science was born. Then, when people wanted the soil to grow a good crop, they put plant food, called *fertilizer*, of the right kind, into the ground, instead of trying to make magic do the job.

What were the first gods?

Then, too, after a while these early men gave up using fetishes. They began to worship gods of different kinds, such as the sun god, the moon god, the sky god, the god of war, the god of the chase, the god of love, and the god of the home. They believed that these gods lived up in the clouds or on mountains. Some of them were supposed to be like men, and some like women. The people built temples in which these gods were worshiped. The gods were not all good; some of them were cruel and wicked. It was not until a long, long time later that people began to worship just one God.

But there were many other customs among the folk who lived in tribes that were very in-

teresting. Let us look at some of them. When the time came for a young man to get married, he sometimes had to choose a wife from another tribe, and then the girl was taken into her husband's tribe. There were all kinds of different marriage customs. For instance, a young man who wanted to marry a certain girl might kill a deer and lay it with a heap of firewood at the door of the hut where she lived with her parents. This would be just like saying that he was a good hunter and well able to get food for his family and make a fine, warm home. Then, if the girl and her parents liked the young man, there would be a grand celebration, with feasting and merry-making.

Of course, there were no schools such as children go to nowadays. But the children of the tribe were carefully taught all the customs and taboos. Every boy had to learn a great many things, so that when he grew up he could be a leader of the tribe. The world was

*Were there
any schools?*

full of dangers in those days, and a hunter had to have sharp eyes and ears, be able to run fast, and know how to kill animals.

When a boy reached a certain age, he was taught all these things, and then he had to go through a testing time. He was made to do all sorts of things to show that he was strong and brave and had quick wits. He often had to stand terrible pain without making any sound. If he passed through all these tests, then he became one of the men of the tribe. If he failed, he was disgraced, and had to go and live with the women.

How was the chief selected?

As we have seen, the head man of the tribe was called the *chief*. The chief was usually some wise, strong man, the man best able to lead the tribe at all times. Such a man would generally have many sons. When the chief began to get old and feeble he would train his oldest son to take his place. So the son, as time went on, would take his father's place more and more. Then, when the old chief

died, the son would have his father's place.

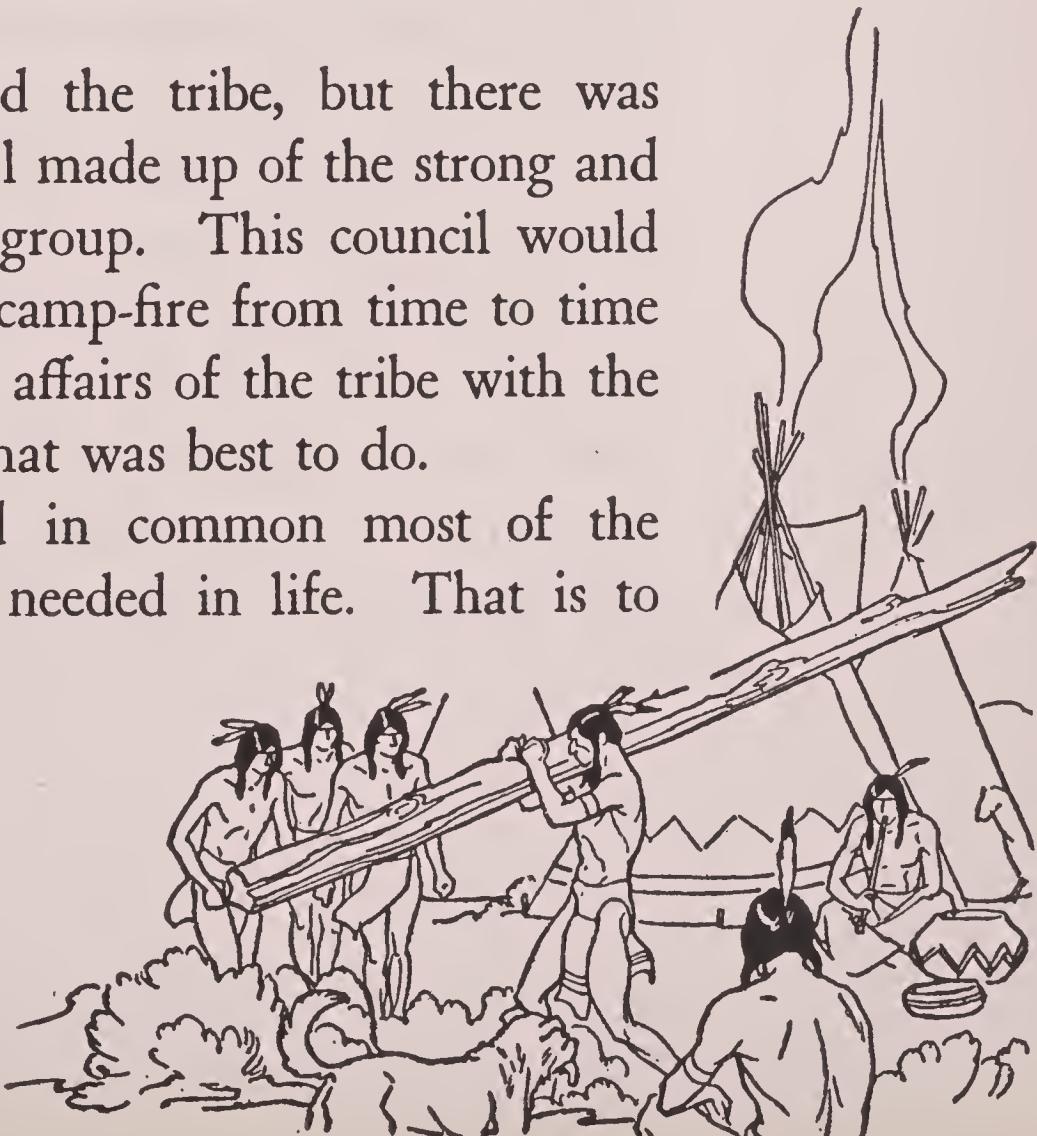
But it might sometimes happen that the chief's oldest son was weak or stupid. Then the men of the tribe would not want him to be chief. They might give the place to another of the chief's sons, or to somebody else who seemed to them to be the right man to lead the tribe. Some of the Indian tribes, when a new chief was needed, would pick out the man who could lift the biggest tree on his shoulders and carry it the farthest. And sometimes when war broke out another man would be picked out, as a war chief, to lead the tribe in battle.

*Was the chief's
son always the
next chief?*

The chief ruled the tribe, but there was generally a council made up of the strong and wise men of the group. This council would meet around the camp-fire from time to time and talk over the affairs of the tribe with the chief, deciding what was best to do.

The tribe held in common most of the things that were needed in life. That is to

*The strongest or
bravest man in
the tribe became
chief*



Did people own things?

say, each person did not own a lot of things all by himself. The land used for hunting and fishing was free to all. Everybody had the same right to use it. But when a hunter shot a deer or some other animal with his bow and arrow, then the meat belonged to him for the use of his family.

On the whole, these people who lived in tribes got along together very peacefully. There were many festivals at which the people used to dance and sing together. The children, too, had their games. Like children in all times, they spent a lot of time in play. The boys played at hunting and war, and the girls played with dolls and keeping house. In this way they learned to do the things they would have to do when they grew up.

Sometimes a number of tribes would join together. When there were more men, they could defend themselves better and win victories in war more easily. This was a very important step, because in that way a group of

tribes would begin to think of themselves as belonging together. So it was that we began to have *nations*.

It is believed that some of the rich tribes came to want men to work in their fields and tried to force the men of the poor, weak tribes to work for them. When they could not get enough workers they made war and captured men and women and forced them to work.

*Did they
have wars?*

From this custom came *slavery*, which lasted for thousands of years. Finally, men captured in war were no longer made slaves. But Negroes were taken from their homes in Africa and made to work in America, during the early days, as slaves. That was how there was slavery even in America for a long time. But everybody now sees that slavery was wrong, that people should not make others work for nothing.

Slavery changed greatly the lives of the people in the old days. At first, all the members of the tribe were free and equal. But

when slaves were taken into the tribe, then there were different classes of people. As time went on, there came to be three great classes of people in each country. There were noblemen, freemen, and slaves. Also, things were not owned by the whole group quite so much as before.

The noblemen were the leaders in war. They owned many slaves. They put the slaves to work raising crops and working in other ways for their masters. So the noblemen did not have to work much—they had a great deal of free time. And by having many slaves working for them, they became rich.

From very early times ordinary people did not have to work all the time raising food. Some of them did special kinds of work. One would become a carpenter, another a metal-worker, another a stone-cutter, and so on. This is called *the division of labor*. It changed greatly the way people live together.

CHAPTER II

HOW PEOPLE BECAME CIVILIZED

EARLY men got most of their food by hunting and fishing. But they did not want to eat only meat and fish all the time. They went through the woods and fields looking for berries, grains, and nuts. Sometimes they were scarce. Then they found out that they could grow their own wheat plants. Perhaps they saw that plants grew more plentifully near deserted camp grounds. Or perhaps at some time their supply of stored seeds had become wet and sprouted, and when they had thrown them out they saw that each seed became a tiny plant which later gave them more seeds. After many such accidental plantings and harvests they came to realize that they could raise these plants where they wanted to and did not need to depend on wild seeds.

How did early people make a living?

*Did they raise
animals for food?*

Some tribes, too, especially in the Old World, when wild game became scarce, learned how to raise cattle and sheep so that there would always be a good supply of meat. But they had to keep moving from place to place in order to find good pastures.

Of course, when people lived chiefly by hunting or keeping flocks and herds, the tribes were rather small in numbers, because it took a whole lot of land to give even one family hunting grounds and pastures large enough for its needs.

And other men settled down in one place, planting large crops, so that more people could live together comfortably on much less land. So it was that more and more people took to farming.

The first kind of farming was done with a hoe. The hoe is a little tool worked by one man. It lightly scrapes the surface of the ground, so that seeds can be planted and crops raised. The tribes which, like the American

Indians and the South Sea Islanders, lived partly by hunting and fishing and partly by farming used the hoe. Some tribes in Africa lived partly by raising cattle and partly by farming with the hoe.

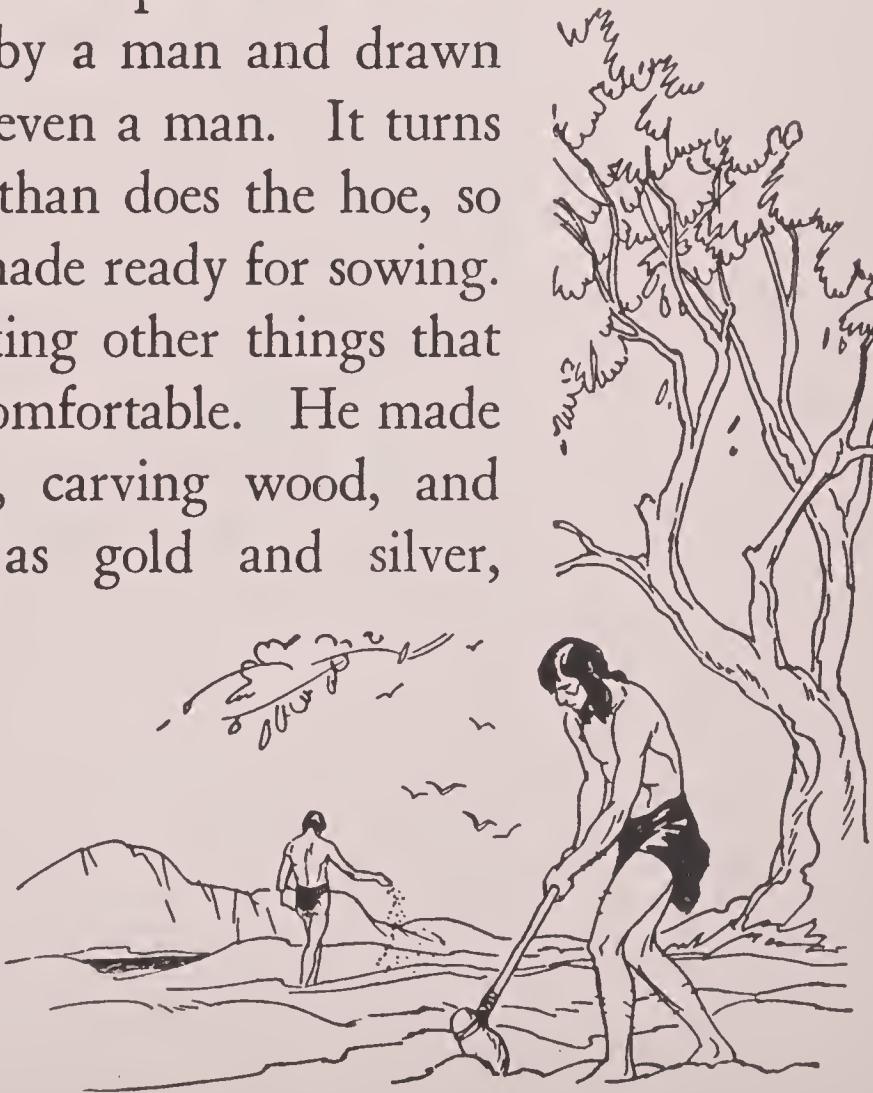
Another way of farming, on very fertile land, is with the tool known as a spade, a sharp flat tool with a handle, used for digging. The spade is very useful for raising vegetables in little gardens. It has been used a great deal in China, where hundreds of millions of people are crowded together in one country.

*What tools
did they use?*

The next step in farming came when somebody invented a plow. The plow is an iron or wooden tool guided by a man and drawn by a horse or an ox, or even a man. It turns up the soil more easily than does the hoe, so that large fields can be made ready for sowing.

Man continued inventing other things that helped make life more comfortable. He made tools for shaping stone, carving wood, and working metals such as gold and silver,

*The first kind of farming
was done with a hoe*



What other things did they make?

copper and iron. He learned how to make pottery, boats, baskets, and cloth. The discovery of how to make cloth enabled people to have real clothes instead of having to wear skins. In making cloth they first had to spin thread from fibers of wool or flax. Then the thread had to be woven. The women did this work in some tribes, the men in others. It was very slow and took a long time.

Another great discovery that made a great difference in the way people lived was writing. Nowadays writing seems very easy, but when man was first learning how to do it, he had all kinds of trouble. You see he had nobody to teach him! He had to begin first by making pictures. But after he could write enough to make his meaning clear, it helped him in many ways. He could send messages to people far away by writing them a letter. And people could write down things that they needed to remember. Books could be written, and so people could learn more things.

Long before, people had learned to make themselves better homes. At first, as we have seen, they huddled together in dark caves. Then they began to build huts of logs, covered with earth to keep them warm. Those who lived on the open plains, tending flocks and herds, built tents by setting up a wooden framework and covering it with skins or felt. You can see how easy it would be to take down these houses when the tribe moved on in order to find new pastures for the animals.

*What were
homes like?*

Those American Indians who hunted buffalo on the plains used curious tents called wigwams. These wigwams could be taken apart, carried off to another place, and set up again. They were made by taking long poles and standing them in a circle, drawing the ends together at the top. Then they stretched over these poles the bark of trees or buffalo skins. Other tribes, in Europe, built their houses on wooden platforms out on the water of lakes, some distance from the shore. This served as

a protection from their enemies. The wooden platforms rested on stout logs driven into the mud under the water.

When people began to be more civilized, they built real houses of brick or wood and stone. These houses might have a number of rooms and last as long as our houses do.

*Were there
any cities or
towns?*

From very early times, huts and houses were usually built close together. One reason was that, as we know, people like to be near each other. Then, too, when a number of huts or houses were not far apart, the people living in them could easily and quickly get together to defend themselves. When they became civilized they often built a high, thick wall around the group of houses. Besides this, they might dig a ditch around the wall and fill it with water. Then their enemies would have a very hard time attacking them.

These groups of dwellings came to be known as towns. They were just a group of huts or houses built near each other. Towns made

another great change in the way people lived together. Of course, there could not be towns until men had learned how to raise crops on the land and did not have to move about.

After a great many towns had grown up in a country where the people all spoke the same language and belonged to the same race, and where they had other things in common, they would often join together and make a nation, sometimes ruled by a king. There were kingdoms among people who were still a long way from being really civilized. Some nations held a great many people and their towns were very large.

*Were there
whole nations
of people?*

The coming of nations, however, was an important step in human progress. But some peoples lagged behind others. There were great nations, like Egypt, with splendid civilizations thousands of years ago. On the other hand, at the present time there are large groups of tribes in different parts of the earth that have never gone on and become nations.

Of course, when so many thousands of people were living together in one town, they had to be doing many different kinds of work. In other words, there was division of labor.

*Did all men do
the same things?*

This is how it happened: Suppose there were 10,000 people living together in a town. Instead of each family making its own shoes, it would be much better to have a number of men in the town do nothing but make shoes. By giving all their time and attention to that job, they would become more skillful and could make better shoes than could be made by people who had to do other things, too. But of course these men who did nothing but make shoes would soon have more than they could use for their own families. So they would exchange some of the shoes for other things which they needed, such as food and clothing, which were raised or made by other people.

This was trade. At first it went on in a small way. Each man simply exchanged the things that he made for things that other men

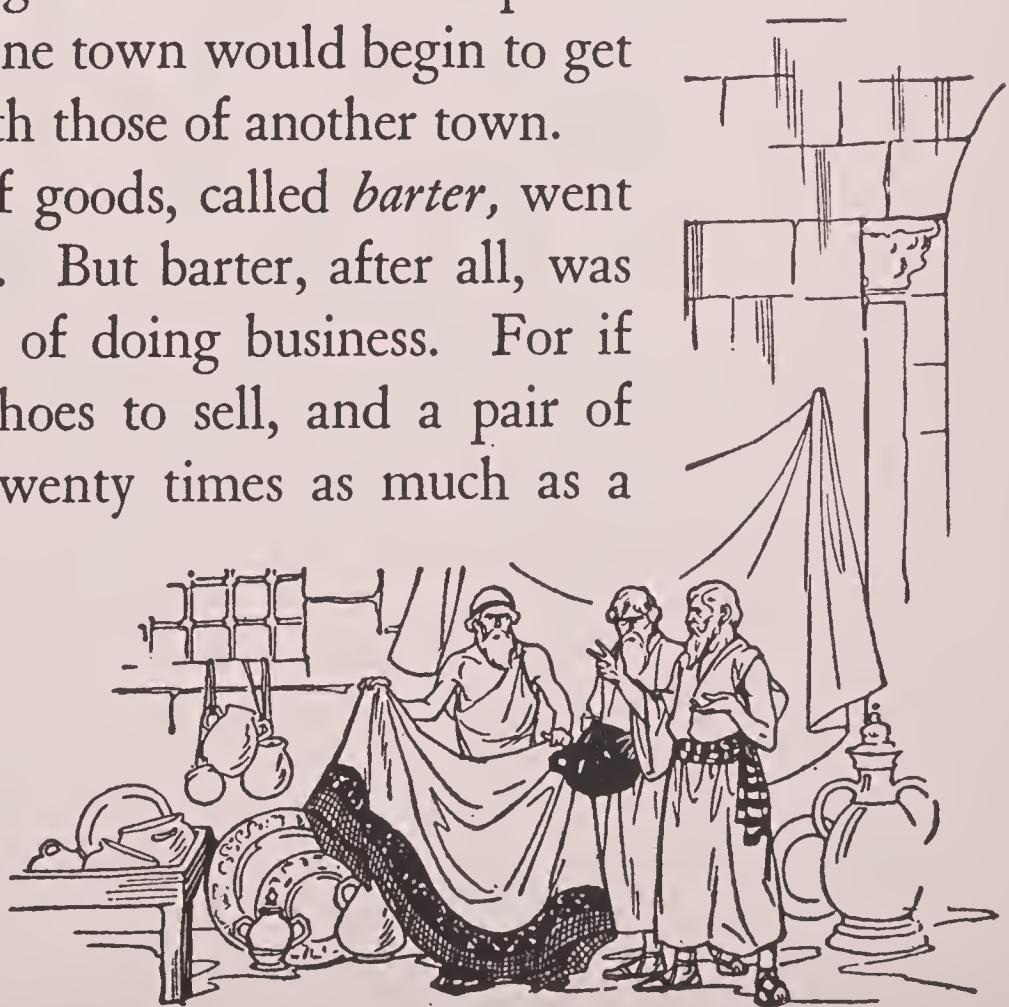
made. A man would do the work that he knew best how to do, and so became more and more skillful in doing that work.

Then trade began to spread out. The people in one place would start exchanging things that were made in their town for things that were made in some other town but not in theirs. Perhaps there was a silver mine near one town, so that the people there could get lots of silver and make beautiful things out of it. The people in other towns, far away, where there was no silver, would want some of these pretty silver ornaments, and so they would offer to give other things for them. It was by this trading between different places that the people of one town would begin to get well acquainted with those of another town.

This exchange of goods, called *barter*, went on for a long time. But barter, after all, was a troublesome way of doing business. For if a man had only shoes to sell, and a pair of shoes was worth twenty times as much as a

*How did
they trade?*

*Barter was an
exchange
of goods*



loaf of bread, how in the world could he buy a loaf of bread when he needed it? He could not very well cut off one-twentieth part of a pair of shoes.

*Did people
use money?*

But very early there arose the idea of money. At first, let us say, shells were used, because a heap of shells could easily be divided up into any amount, large or small. Then the man who sold shoes would take a certain number of shells in exchange, and when he wanted a loaf of bread he would go to the baker and buy it with a few shells.

Even in our own times, shells are used as money by the people of islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Many other objects were used as money, but the best money is metal, such as gold and silver and copper. Little round pieces of these metals were made, and everybody was glad to get them. They were stamped so as to show that they were good metal and of the right weight. They were called *coins*.

These coins were much more valuable than shells, and they were smaller and easier to carry around. Besides, one couldn't break them the way one could shells. Then, too, coins could be counted out into any sum wanted. Gold was worth more than silver, and silver more than copper. A little gold was worth much copper. Thus big sums would be paid in gold, and small sums in copper. Ten dollars in gold would be one small coin, easy to carry, but in copper it would be hundreds of coins, very heavy and hard to carry. Five cents in gold would be so tiny an amount that you could scarcely see it, but five cents in copper would be an amount large enough not to get lost easily. That was why the most valuable coins were of gold and the least valuable of copper, with silver in between.

Now the man who wanted to buy a pair of shoes would take some coin, probably of silver, to the shoemaker and get his pair of shoes. And the shoemaker, when he wanted a loaf of

*How did
coins come
to be used?*

bread, would take a few copper coins to the baker, hand them to him, and take home a loaf of bread.

What were fairs?

However, a good deal of business was still done by barter. In some places great fairs were held. These fairs were meeting places to which people came from distant places and exchanged their goods. And when trade between different countries began, it was carried on by means of barter. A ship would sail with a load of wool, perhaps, and when it reached the other country, the wool would be traded for iron or lumber.

By means of trade, the people in each country could get many things that they could not raise or make in their own country. And by trading with distant people, they got better acquainted with them. By knowing other people, we learn to like them. Charles Lamb, a famous English writer, once said that the reason he didn't like a certain man was because he didn't really know him.

CHAPTER III

LIFE IN ANCIENT GREECE

CENTURIES ago, a wonderful people lived in a beautiful land on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. These people were the Greeks. Their country was called *Hellas* or Greece.

The Greeks worked out a way of living together that was very different from life in the tribe or in a large country ruled by a king.

In Greece each city was a little nation in itself. That seems rather strange, does it not? There were quite a number of cities in Greece. We will take a peep at Athens, because that was the finest of them all. Let us imagine that we are back in about the year 400 b. c.

Greece was a peninsula; that is, a country almost surrounded by water. Its coast line was dented with bays and gulfs, and there were

*Were there
tribes in Greece?*

many beautiful islands off the coast. The climate was warm and sunny. Athens lay in a part of the country called Attica, on the eastern side of the peninsula, quite near the sea.

*Did the Greeks
have kings?*

Now Athens, like other Greek cities of that time, was a little nation all by itself, though it had no king. It was a democracy, but not like the United States, because all citizens met together. All of these Greek cities ruled themselves. But sometimes they joined together in a league, generally for protection.

In Athens all the citizens were equal, with the same rights. But not all the people who lived in Athens were citizens. In order to be a citizen, a man had to have forefathers who also had been citizens of Athens for a long time in the past. No outsiders who had come to Athens to make their home, or the children of any such, could be citizens. And below these outsiders there were crowds of slaves who did all the hard work. But the slaves were not always treated cruelly. Many of them were

skillful workers in the crafts, and they lived comfortably. The outsiders were also able to live happily. They made much money in trade. Often they had fine houses, better perhaps than those of some of the citizens. And they could do practically everything a citizen could do except vote and hold a political job. However, only citizens could actually own land.

All the citizens were supposed to meet together in a great assembly. In this meeting any citizen had the right to speak and to vote on any question that was being talked about. As there were some thousands of citizens, of course it was a very large meeting.

In fact, this assembly was too large to rule the country. So the citizens selected by lot some of their number to be members of a council of 500 men, who looked after things and who served as judges in the law-courts. Then there was a little group of ten generals, picked from the citizens, to lead in war.

The citizens of Athens did very little work

*Who ruled
the Greeks?*

of any kind except helping to govern the city. Each citizen had, on the average, five slaves working for him.

Was the family important?

Here again, just as among those early tribes we have learned about, we find the family the very heart of the life of people in ancient Athens. The father was the head of the house, as he was in the tribes, and all the members of the family had to obey him. He could be cruel if he wanted to, but very few fathers were. Most of them were kind to their families, just as they are today.

One great difference between the people who lived in tribes and the people of these old Greek cities like Athens was that the people of Greece did not have to depend upon customs and taboos to tell them what to do or what not to do. They also had written laws. And when there were quarrels between grown-up people, they would take the matter to court and the judges would decide.

There was a great deal of trade between



*Wise men of Athens gathered young folk about them
in order to tell them of "the good life"*

*Did they
use money?*

Athens and other Greek cities, and even with distant countries. They had money, too, which was similar to ours. The Greek gold and silver coins were very beautiful.

Athens was a lovely city, so lovely that it was called "the city of the violet crown." The climate was warm, but not too hot, so that the people could spend a great deal of their time out of doors. They had fine houses of stone, which were comfortable, with pleasant courtyards in which the children could play. On the top of a high hill stood the most splendid temple ever built in the world. It was made of pure white marble and was called the Parthenon. And not far away rolled the sea.

As we have just seen, the climate in Athens was so pleasant that the people liked to be out of doors as much as possible. They had many open-air theaters, built something like our football stadiums.

Greek people were very fond of games, sports, and physical exercise of all kinds. They

believed that a fine, healthy body helped to make life really worth while. From time to time great athletic meets were held, called Olympic games, in which young men from all over Greece would take part in foot races, throwing the javelin and the discus (a round piece of metal), and other contests.

*What were the
Olympic games?*

Then there were many holidays in honor of the gods. On those days the people stopped work and thronged to the temples. There were joyful processions in which the people sang and scattered flowers.

There were many very wise men in Athens, called philosophers, who used to gather young folk about them in the shade of some porch and teach them what one must do in order to live "the good life." One of the wisest of these men was named Socrates.

The people of Athens loved their city dearly. They were patriots. When an enemy tried to attack the city, the young men all rushed to defend it. Again and again, though so few,

the Greeks held back great armies of enemies, sometimes from far-off countries like Persia. At a place called Marathon and at another place called Thermopylae they showed such bravery that these places are still famous in history. These young Greeks were great heroes. They saved not only Greece but Europe as well from slavery to cruel tyrants in Asia.

What did war do to the Greeks?

On the whole, the people of Athens and these other Greek cities led very happy lives, at least in times of peace. But these cities quarreled and fought each other till many thousands of their young men were killed. So it was that Athens and the other cities of Greece grew weaker and weaker.

Then came a time when a mighty soldier named Alexander swept Athens and her sister cities into an empire. Still later, these beautiful cities were ruled by a powerful city in Italy, called Rome, whose rulers sent conquering armies everywhere.

CHAPTER IV

LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

BETWEEN the end of the Roman Empire and the discovery of America are several centuries which we now call "the Middle Ages." It was one of the most interesting times in history, for things were happening then that led on to the kind of world that we see about us today. There were real people, just like us in many ways, during the Middle Ages.

*What were the
"Middle Ages?"*

Now let us see how the Middle Ages came about. You will remember that wonderful city in ancient Italy called Rome. It began as a small town, but soon it began to grow large and strong. Soon it ruled all Italy. The Romans were a mighty people, with a strong army and able men as rulers. So Rome went on growing and growing. Then a very great man arose. His name was Julius Caesar. He

led the Roman armies to victory in distant lands. At last Rome was "the mistress of the world." The city of Rome was the capital of a great empire.

*Who ruled
Rome?*

From early days there had been in Rome a council of older men (the Senate) and two men (Consuls) who ruled the country. The Consuls were chosen and held their office for a year. Rome began as a kind of republic. But Rome grew into an empire, and the ruler was a man known as the Emperor. He was powerful. He could do almost anything he wanted to do. When he died, his son or some other person became the next Emperor.

Then the people did not have so much freedom as they did before. More and more of them were slaves; and some of the Emperors, like Nero, were terribly wicked and cruel.

The Roman Empire lasted more than 300 years. But the Roman citizens lost the strength that had made Rome great. They became rich and lazy, and many of them lived very evil

lives. Then the Empire was attacked by German and other tribes that rebelled against the rule of the Empire. The Romans could not drive them away. They captured and plundered Rome, and the great Empire crashed into ruin.

What happened to Rome?

That was a frightful time in the world's history. The people were very poor, and they suffered terribly from disease, while thousands were killed in the wars that were going on all the time. Few people could read or write. Learning was kept alive only in the monasteries, where the monks lived.

How did people live in the Middle Ages?

Now let us see what life was like in the Middle Ages. At first, there were scarcely any cities. Nearly all the common people lived on little farms. There were no more real slaves, but the people who lived on these little farms were not much better off than if they had been slaves. They were known as *serfs*, which is almost the same as *slaves*, and they led very hard lives. When the land was sold to a new owner, the serfs went with it, just like cattle.

Rome grew to be "the mistress of the world"



*Who were
the serfs?*

These serfs belonged to the land by reason of an agreement made between the small land holder and some powerful lord who lived near him. During the troublesome times after the breakdown of the Roman Empire, many powerful bands of outlaw warriors had roamed the land. Wherever they went they brought destruction and robbery. The small land holders, in order to secure protection from these outlaws, swore allegiance to a more powerful lord. They promised to work so many days a year for him, as well as to serve him in time of war. In return for this, the lord promised to give them protection. These noblemen, in their turn, were sworn to give aid to the king of the country in time of war. This came to be known as the feudal system.

Each noble and his family lived in a big house or castle. The district that he ruled was called a *manor*. The noble was the lord of the *manor*.

But the serfs were not all farmers. There

was a great deal of special work that had to be done at each manor. So some of the serfs were trained as shepherds, swineherds (who looked after pigs), blacksmiths (who made horseshoes and other things out of iron), carpenters, bakers, and so on.

There was very little trade at first, because the roads were overrun by highwaymen, who robbed merchants and travelers. Each manor either raised or made nearly everything that was needed by the little group living round about. The man who looked after all the business in the great house or castle was the steward. He had many men working under him, doing special kinds of work.

There were also large buildings in different parts of the country, called *monasteries*, where holy men known by the name of monks lived together. The head of a monastery was the abbot. Some of the larger monasteries were like manor houses. They had farms around them, on which lived serfs and their families.

*Was there
much trade?*

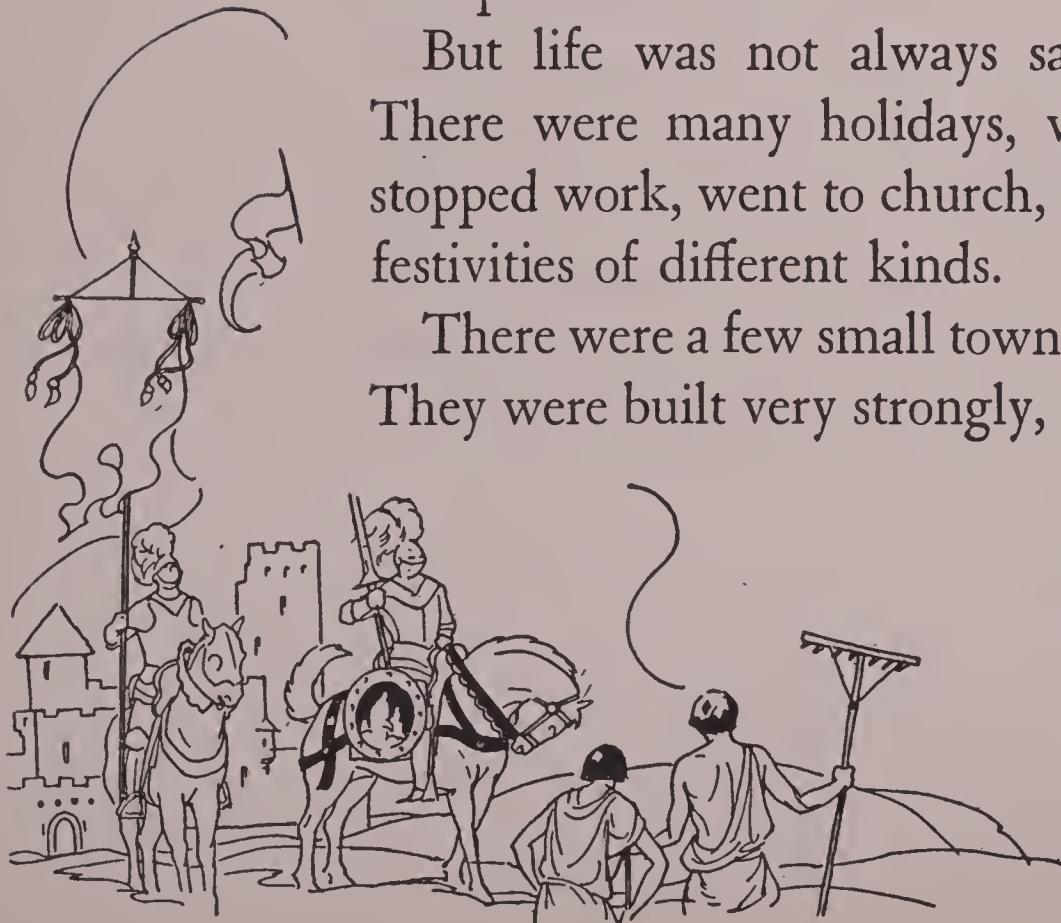
*What were
the people's
homes like?*

Most of the common people in those days were very poor. They lived in miserable huts, with dirt floors. Nobody, rich or poor, had many comforts like ours. Even in the great castles of the nobles there was straw instead of carpets on the floors, there were no bathrooms, and no hot water pipes. Water had to be carried in from a well. There were not even any stoves or furnaces. Great open fireplaces were used both for cooking food and for heating.

War and sickness killed thousands. People knew little about keeping clean in those days. They did not know much about how to keep well, and they often drank dirty water. So diseases like typhoid fever and smallpox would sweep over the land.

But life was not always sad and gloomy. There were many holidays, when everybody stopped work, went to church, and took part in festivities of different kinds.

There were a few small towns here and there. They were built very strongly, with thick walls



*The landlord pro-
tected the serfs
with hired
warriors*

surrounded by moats—ditches filled with water. When an army of enemies came to attack the place, the people all hurried inside the walls. Then the bridge over the moat would be lifted up and nobody else could get in.

As time went on, life became safer. There were fewer bandits on the roads. So trade began to grow. Then the towns grew larger and larger. The people who lived in them were called *burghers*, which means townsmen.

Here again, we find something that we have seen happening in other places. That is, the division of labor. The work was divided up into all kinds of different trades, and there would be people who worked at just one kind of trade. Now in these towns of the Middle Ages the people who worked at the same trade thought it would be a good idea to join together. This union was called a guild. There were guilds of weavers, leather-workers, goldsmiths (persons who made beautiful things out of gold), carpenters, druggists, spice dealers, phy-

*Was the work
divided up?*

sicians, and notaries (who were like our lawyers).

*What did the
guilds do?*

You would find these guilds in all the great countries of Europe, from Italy to England. The leaders of the guilds did good work in protecting the rights of their people. The guilds used to take in young boys and teach them how to become workmen.

Then, too, the guilds taught the people how to rule themselves. For each guild managed its own affairs and elected officers to see that its rules were obeyed.

During the Middle Ages the church played an important part in the lives of the people. For in those days everybody belonged to the same church. When you travel in Europe, you will see grand churches, called *cathedrals*, in every city. Many of these cathedrals were so large that they could hold thousands of people at one time. From all around the countryside the people flocked in to worship together in the cathedral. These church buildings were

open every day, not just on Sunday, and their beautiful stained glass windows and carved altars taught the people to love beauty.

Thus the church was very close to the people. It had charge of many matters, such as marriages, the care of the sick and of the poor, and education. There were schools and colleges where boys could become scholars at little cost.

Even in the largest towns, people did not enjoy the comforts that we do today. The streets were narrow and muddy, and dark at night, because there were no street lights. And the towns were very unhealthy, because there were no sewers. And just like the people in the country, each family had to get its water out of a well—or a public fountain.

Life during the Middle Ages was hard for everyone. But the people in those days had courage. They were trying, slowly but surely, to make the world better for those who should live after them.

*What were the
cities like?*

CHAPTER V

HOW THE MODERN WORLD WAS BORN

IMPORTANT things happened at the end of the Middle Ages that changed the whole way of life for millions of people.

*Why was
the invention
of gunpowder
important?*

First, gunpowder was introduced from China, so that man could shoot lead and iron balls out of guns and cannon. Big cannon balls could batter down the walls of the strongest castles and forts. Guns could kill the proud knights and nobles who wore armor and rode to battle on horseback. For now the common soldier, armed with a powerful gun called a musket, could do as much in battle as any other man. So the common people began to get into a better position to claim their rights.

Then there was a great movement that swept over Europe, which we call the Renaissance, a

name meaning rebirth. It was a new birth of art and the reading and writing of books. When many people became wealthy by means of trade, they had time for other things besides just getting a living. More and more people were learning to read and write. They found and began to read the books written by the great authors of Greece and Rome. These books had been forgotten by nearly everybody for hundreds of years.

Now universities began to be built in many places, and thousands of young men flocked to them. More and more people wanted books to read.

Copying books by hand was costly, and besides, it was very slow work. Then, too, they did not have paper. Books were written on polished skin called parchment, and that cost a great deal. After a while the making of paper from rags was introduced from the Arabs who learned it from the Chinese. Then came a man named Gutenberg, in Germany,

*What was
the Renaissance?*

*Were there books
to read?*

who invented a new way of making books, very cheaply, by printing them from type instead of copying them out by hand. Thousands of copies of a book could be printed in a short time, and then anybody who wanted a copy of that book could buy it for a small price.

It was not long before printing presses were being set up all over Europe, and people were eagerly buying all the books that were printed. One of the first books printed was the Bible.

Never before in the history of the world were so many people reading books. They were soon asking all kinds of questions. They wanted to know more about this earth that we live on. Nobody knew just how big the earth really was. Sailors began making long voyages and finding new lands.

We all know the story of Christopher Columbus, the brave Italian sailor. He believed that the earth was round, not flat, as nearly everybody else used to think in those days. So he thought that by sailing westward he could reach

*What did
books do for
people?*

India and China by a new and cheaper route. He sailed from Spain with three little ships and a few brave men like himself.

For two months Columbus sailed on and on over the broad ocean. Then one day he sighted land. It was not India or China, but a New World which the people of Europe did not know anything about. It was America.

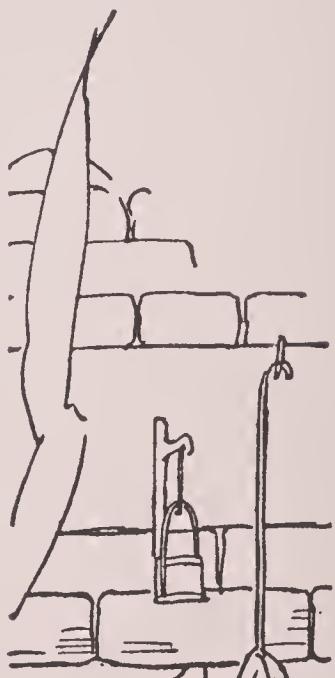
Then many other wonderful things began to happen. Other bold sailors sailed all the way around Africa and really did reach India and China. At last ships sailed around the world itself and came back to the place they started from. Trade grew as never before.

But most people still led very hard lives. They had to work many hours daily just to get enough to live on, and they had few of the good things of life, because they cost so much.

But certain wise men known as scientists were thinking of ways by which Nature could be made to work for man.

There is a pretty story of a little boy in

*What made
trade grow?*



*James Watt watching
a teakettle boil*



*How did
we get the
steam engine?*

Scotland named James Watt. He was curious about things. One day, while in the kitchen of his home, he couldn't help noticing the queer doings of the teakettle, which was hanging over the fire. Water was being heated in the kettle. When the water got so hot that it boiled, the lid of the kettle began jumping up and down, and every time it jumped up a cloud of steam escaped.

That little boy began thinking hard. He thought and thought and thought. He began to wonder why the force that pushed up the lid of the teakettle could not be made to do work for man. So he made some little engines to see if he could "harness" the steam, just as you harness a horse when you want it to work for you. But of course it would have to be harnessed in a different way, because the steam didn't have a body and legs, like a horse.

This story is interesting, but the steam engine was really used before Watt. He greatly improved it and made it turn wheels for factory

machines. The steam engine did such wonderful things that after a while it really made the world over.

At first, the steam engines were used for pumping water out of coal mines. Then they were made to run machines for spinning yarn and weaving cloth. One person, tending such a machine, could make as much yarn or cloth in a day as hundreds of people working by hand had once made.

Next came the steamboat and railway, when men made steam pull carriages on land and drive boats through the water. Sure enough, steam could do that, too. People then could travel ever so much faster than before. They did not have to depend upon horses, which were soon tired, to pull carriages along the roads. And they did not have to depend upon the wind, which often died down, to fill the sails of boats and push them along. Steam could make both carriages and boats move ever so much faster, and it never got tired or died

*What did
steam power
do for man?*

down so long as you had a fire burning to keep the water hot and turn it into more steam.

Before this time, the people who made goods used to do the work in their own homes. But machines driven by steam were too big and noisy to be put into houses where people lived. Large buildings called factories were made for them. These factories sprang up in towns and cities all over the country.

*What did
factories do for
the cities?*

There was a great need of workers to tend the machines in these big factories. Thousands of men and women from the farms and small towns came into the cities to get jobs.

This made a new problem for man. Nothing like it had ever happened before in the world. People had had no chance to learn how to live in this new way. There were no laws to protect the health of the workers in the factories. Then, too, there were not enough houses for the workers to live in comfortably, and they could not afford to build new ones. So it was that, while many people became very

rich by selling the goods made in the factories, most of the workers themselves were very poor. They were crowded into old houses in dark streets near the factories. These streets came to be called *slums*.

Nearly all of these poor people had to work for long hours at very low wages. There were no parks or playgrounds for the children, and not nearly enough schools for them. In fact, many of the children had to go to work in the factories when very young in order to earn their living. Poor orphan children sometimes were put to work in the factories, where many of them died.

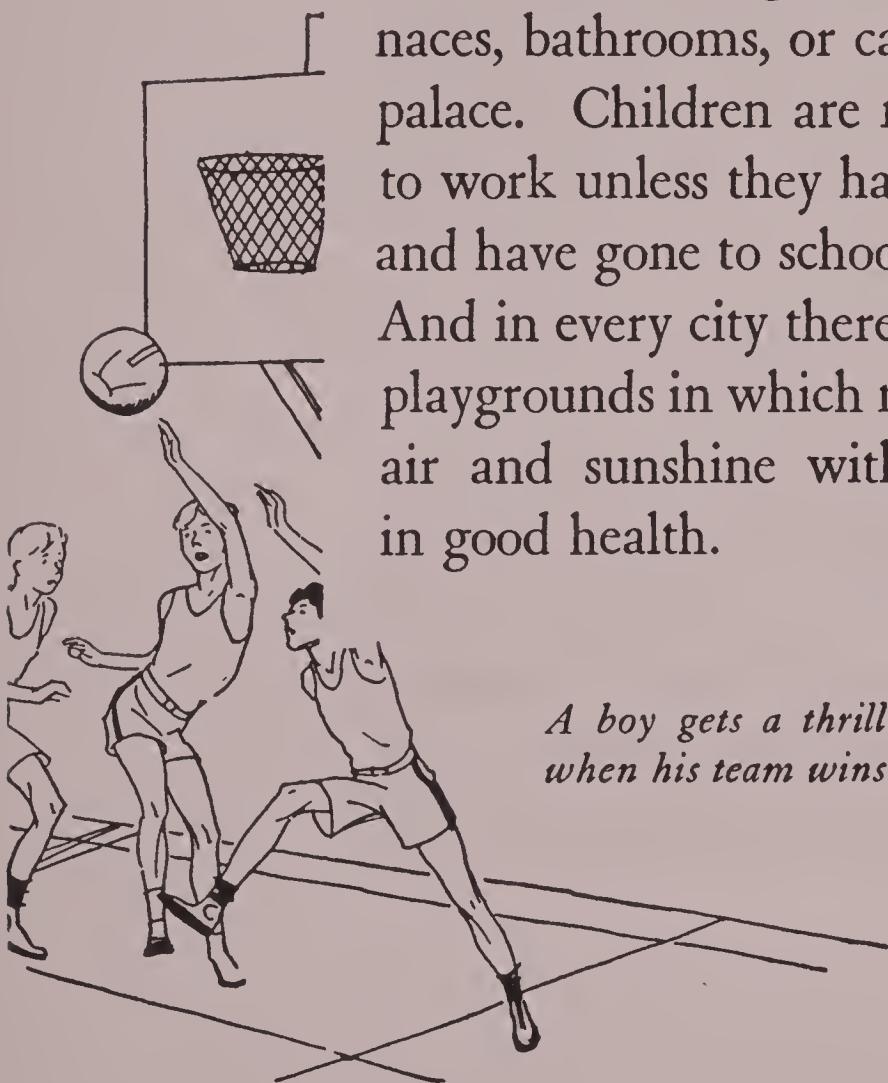
At last, wise and good citizens saw that it was dangerous to all the people to allow these terrible slums, because they were so dirty that they spread disease throughout the city. These citizens said, too, that working people and their families ought to be treated better. So laws were passed which made their day's work shorter, and gave them cleaner places to work

*What problems
came with
the factories?*

in and live in. The children were given a chance to go to school. The workers themselves got together into groups called *Trade Unions*, in order to protect their rights still more.

*Are all factories
like the old ones?*

So today things are better than they were before. Many factories are pleasant places in which to work, and the workers live in pleasant homes. Some working people now have more comfortable homes than kings and nobles had in the Middle Ages, when there were no furnaces, bathrooms, or carpets even in the king's palace. Children are no longer allowed to go to work unless they have reached a certain age and have gone to school for a number of years. And in every city there are beautiful parks and playgrounds in which many can enjoy the fresh air and sunshine without cost, and so keep in good health.



CHAPTER VI

SOME OF THE GROUPS IN THE WORLD TODAY

NEVER before have there been so many groups of people as there are today. By a *group*, as we use the word here, we simply mean a number of persons who live together, or who have joined together to do something better than each one could do it alone. Often, of course, one person could not do at all what the group does. And groups are of all sizes, from very small to very large.

*What is a
a group?*

First, of course, there is the family, which is the oldest group of all. We saw it first, you remember, far back in those early times when people lived in caves. There will be more to say about it in the family chapter. Then there is the neighborhood, which includes all the people who live quite near each other. Then there

are groups of people who go to the same church, or who work in the same factory or office, or who belong to the same club or society. Children who go to the same school make up another kind of group.

*What do
political
groups do?*

Besides these, there are the groups that are called *political*, such as the town or city, the county, the state, and the nation. We could not get along in our everyday life without the many things that are done for us as members of political groups.

Just think of what the city does for us; it gives us policemen to protect us from danger, it lights our streets at night, it puts out fires, it gives us drinking water, it sees to it that the milk is pure, it takes away our waste matter so that it will not cause sickness, it builds schoolhouses and libraries, parks and playgrounds.

The county does other things for us, such as protecting our right to land that we own, taking care of the "wills" of people who die, and giving us courts and judges to enforce the laws.

The state, too, helps us in many ways. For instance, it builds roads for our automobiles, it sends men around to see that the places where people work, such as factories, are light and clean, and it takes care of the people's health.

There are so many things that the nation does for the people that we cannot begin to mention all of them. Stop and think and see how many things you can remember that Uncle Sam does for us. He delivers our letters and many of our parcels. He looks over our meat at the stockyards to make sure that it is good to eat. He helps the farmers in raising their crops and fighting insects that would destroy them. He tells us what the weather is likely to be tomorrow. He builds lighthouses to protect ships at sea. And he keeps the army and navy to defend the country.

Millions of men and women have come from all over the world to this land, looking for a chance to make a better living for themselves and for their children. Many of them, or

*How does
the nation
help us?*

*Do we know
more about
each other now?*

their children and grandchildren, are now our friends and neighbors.

In the early days the people living in different parts of the country saw very little of each other, for there were no railroads in those days, the roads were very bad, and it took weeks to go a distance that a fast train now carries one in a few hours.

Then, too, in those early days most of the people were farmers. Most families lived on their own little farms, where almost everything that they needed was raised or made.

Then came the days of railroads, steamboats, and all kinds of machinery. Of course, the towns grew much larger, so that now millions of people live in cities and large towns. And good roads, automobiles, and fast trains have made it very easy for people living in the country to come into the city to make visits there. More and more, we are becoming better acquainted with each other. Millions of people every evening nowadays, both in the cities and



*In early times most men lived on their own little farms,
raising or making everything they needed*

on the farms, listen to the same music and talks over the radio. And a fast airplane can fly from New York to San Francisco in one day—a journey that once took months of dangerous travel.

*Does trade
bring people
together?*

Trade and business also bind the people more and more closely together. Every part of this great country—and even other countries sometimes—helps to supply each family with food, clothing, furniture, books, and all the other things that we need in our lives.

Trade and business could not be carried on if people did not join together into groups, called companies and corporations, which give work to hundreds and thousands of people.

And we must not forget other great national groups, with branches in different towns and cities through the country. For instance, there are trade unions. They are something like the guilds we talked about when we were looking at the Middle Ages. Men and women who work at different trades belong to these trade

unions, or labor unions, as they are sometimes called. The people in the unions help each other in many ways.

Then there are groups made up of business men, doctors, lawyers, and so on. These groups often hold big meetings, called conventions, in a different city every year. There the members from all over the country meet and get acquainted with each other and exchange ideas about their business. They help each other to do better work for the people.

Besides these, there are other groups, such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, which help sick people and those who are very poor.

Still other great national groups, with branches everywhere, are the political parties, such as the Republican party and the Democratic party. By belonging to a political party and taking part in its work, citizens can help pick out good persons for office.

In every town and city there are many groups besides those we have mentioned. A man may

*What are
some of the
other groups?*

belong to a group like the Masons, the Odd Fellows, or the Knights of Columbus, in which he meets other men in the spirit of brotherhood. These groups do a great deal of good work. And he may belong to a club of business men who meet together at luncheon downtown, such as Rotary, the Lions, or the Kiwanis. The members of these clubs also help their members to lead more useful lives.

Of course, there are clubs for women, too. There are city clubs and neighborhood clubs, where the women talk over their problems and do things to make the city cleaner and more beautiful.

And the boys and girls have their groups. They are members of classes in the schools they go to. And there are groups like the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, where boys and girls have good times and learn many things that they will find very useful in their lives.

*Are there
groups for
young people?*

CHAPTER VII

THE HOME, THE SCHOOL, AND PLAY

"I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born,
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn."

—THOMAS HOOD

SINCE those days thousands of years ago when our forefathers huddled around fires in dark caves, the family has always been the very center of human life.

What is the center of life?

At the very beginning, in fact, the family was the only group known. There were folkways and customs but no laws. A few families lived together in small groups. Each group had to get for itself all the food that it needed in order to keep alive. They scraped and dried the skins of animals for clothing, before cloth was used, and they wrought out of stone the weapons and tools used for hunting

*Does the family
do everything
for itself?*

and other things that the family did. The father and mother taught the children.

As the tribe grew larger there was more division of labor, as we have seen. Some men did farming, some hunted, some made arrows, canoes, or beads.

In other words, people became more dependent upon others for getting many of the things that they needed in their daily lives. Each family came to have closer relations with other families in the group. And thus trade grew up.

Here again, the division of labor did not go on at the same speed everywhere in the world. Some tribes lagged behind others. Today, among the different peoples of the earth we can find all sorts of stages in the division of labor. In some tribes it still has not gone very far.

You will remember what we said about tribal custom and taboo. And there were medicine-men who thought that they could bring good luck by doing queer things and so getting what they wanted by magic.

We saw what interesting marriage customs they used to have in those old tribes. They thought of marriage as a serious matter, because it meant the starting of a new family.

The family was very closely bound together. In some tribes it was even responsible for the way that all its members acted. If someone in the tribe did wrong, his whole family might be punished.

Of course, as we have been seeing, great changes have taken place, since those early times, in the way people live. But all over the world, and in all times, the family has gone on, for people could not get along without it. In some tribes and in certain countries, down to the present time, a man might have more than one wife. That was called *polygamy*. But there was not such a strong bond of love and helpfulness in a family of that kind as there was when each man had only one wife and they worked together to bring up their children well.

Why has the family gone on?

Was the family important in America?

It was the family that built up our own great country. When America was first settled, the wilderness had to be conquered. This could not have been done by persons working all alone. The reason that men and women came to America in the early days was to make homes in the new land, where their children would have better chances in life than their parents had had in the old country.

They came here usually in family groups. The first thing that each group did, after landing in the new country, was to pick out a piece of land in the wilderness. Then the father and the older boys chopped down the trees, built a log cabin, and planted the first crops. They shot birds and animals and caught fish for food. The mother and the older girls cooked the meals, spun the yarn from wool grown on the backs of sheep, and then wove the yarn into warm clothing for all the family. They tended the live-stock, milked the cows, and made butter and cheese.

Quite often the members of the family had to take down guns from the rack and fight off attacks of warring Indians.

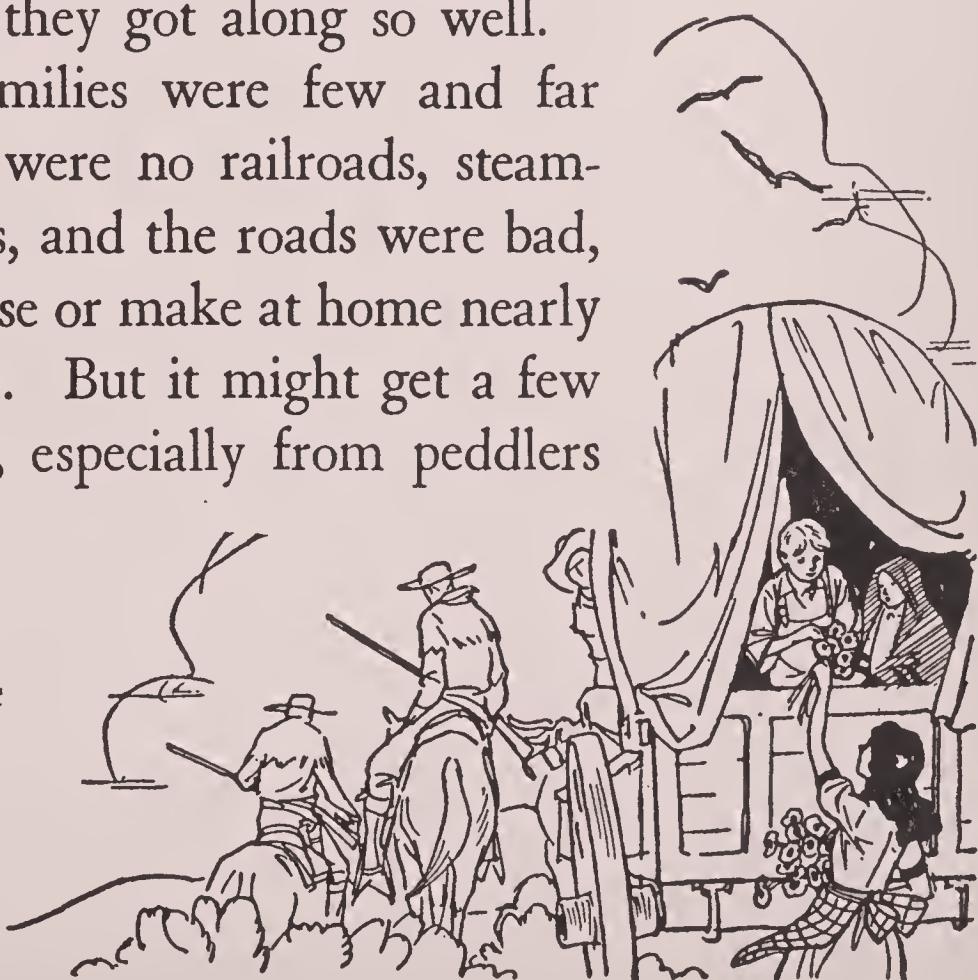
After the eastern part of the country had been settled, many young couples began going out across the plains into the great West. There they, too, built homes, fought off the Indians, and made the wilderness into fine, rich farms. So the whole country at last was settled by families, and a great nation was born.

Now you can see that if each person had been working selfishly for himself, the country could not have been settled at all. Everybody probably would have starved or been killed by the Indians. It was only by all working together in each family that they got along so well.

At first, these families were few and far between. As there were no railroads, steamships, or automobiles, and the roads were bad, the family had to raise or make at home nearly everything it needed. But it might get a few things from outside, especially from peddlers

*What built
up our nation?*

*The families went
out into the
great West*



who wandered from farm to farm with packs on their backs.

How did families meet?

But even in those hard times the different families saw something of each other. Dotted over the country there were churches. To these churches the people came in from the farms round about on Sundays to hear sermons. And there were little schoolhouses here and there to which the children came in winter, when there was less work to do on the farm. Gradually, as better roads were built, towns began to spring up.

Today we live in a great nation. It is made up of countless families. We simply could not get along without the little group known as the family. For when a baby is born into the world, it must be taken care of by somebody who loves it and wants to bring it up. A child would be lost without the care of somebody during the years when it cannot get its own food. If a little child's parents die, other kind people must be found to take their place.

We do not have so many children in most families now, because there is not room for so many and it costs a great deal more to bring them up. On the farm there was usually plenty of open space and room for the children to play. But today millions of families live in cities, where land is very dear. Many homes are in flats and apartments, and there is not much room for the children to play in. So they have to go away to other places, to the parks and playgrounds and beaches, to find room for playing. In city homes people do not make butter and cheese, spin yarn, weave cloth, or make clothing. And they cannot keep animals, except perhaps a cat or a dog.

*Are families
as large now?*

City children do not see so much of their parents nowadays, because usually the father works away from home, in a factory or office, and does not get back until night. But we now have fine large schoolhouses, with light, airy, pleasant rooms, where children go to school all through the year except during the

hot summer months. They spend more hours of each day in school, and they go to school for many more years than children used to in the old days on the farm when they had to begin earning their own living at a very early age.

*Where do
they live?*

Many more families today live in towns and cities than ever before, and they see and know more people. Even those who live on farms have swift automobiles that can take the whole family to a near-by town or city in a short time.

In the towns and cities there are so many interesting places to go to and things to do that people do not stay at home nearly so much as they used to. In the evening the parents may go out to a concert or to the theater or to a meeting of some club, and the children may go to the neighborhood movie or to Boy Scout or Girl Scout meetings or to parties.

Still, in spite of all these things outside, everybody wants to have a place to call *home*, where those who are near and dear to each other can come together after the day's work

and play, where they can spend the time when they do not have to be somewhere else, and where they can sleep during the night.

Though the members of the family nowadays are interested in more things outside of the home than they were before, and though there are more things that must be done outside, the family tie we are sure is just as strong as ever. Parents love their children and children love their parents just as they did hundreds of years ago. Today, children have to spend more years in school in order to get the proper training for their life-work; parents plan for their children's future and often save money to enable them to get the education that is required.

There is another reason why the home means so much in this business of living in a world so full of people. Though our schools today are better than any there ever were before, and though education is free to all, it is in the home that every child must begin to learn things. There every one learns the right way to live.

*Is the family
just as important
now?*

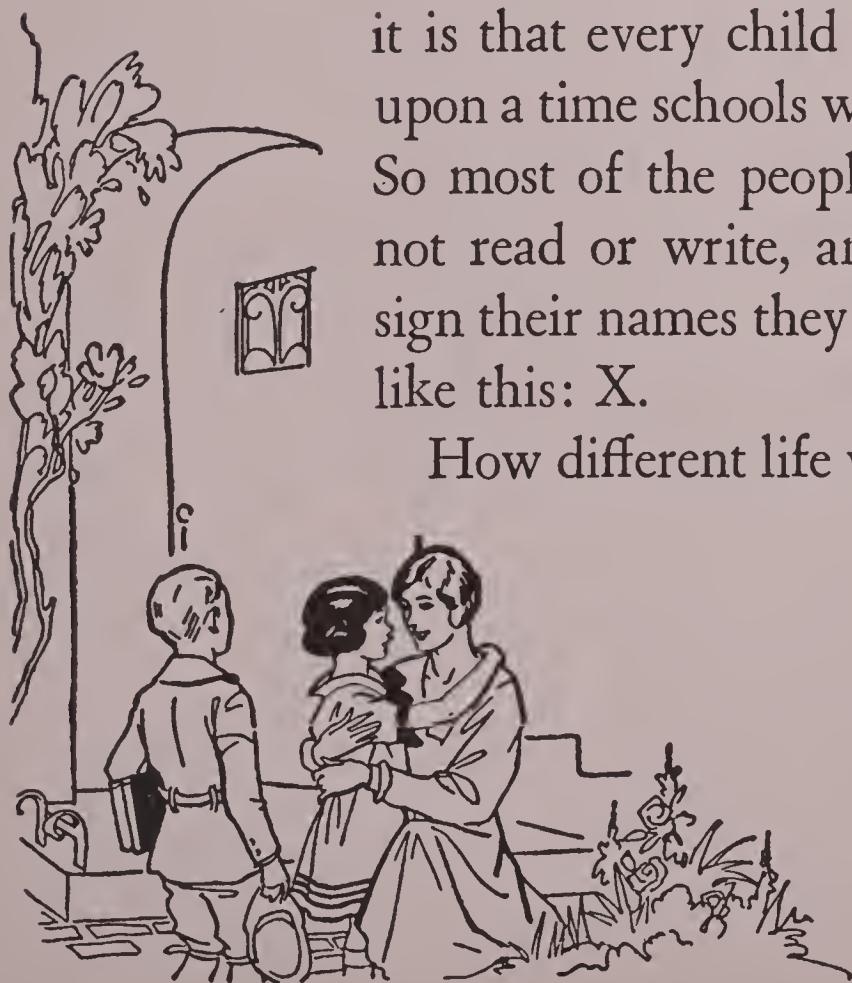
*What is taught
in the family?*

Some of these things that every child must first learn at home are: not to tell lies, to be fair and square with others, not to cheat, to be polite, to be kind to those who need help and even to animals, to be very respectful to old people, and not to be selfish. It is at home that we all must first get our lessons in "playing the game of life."

One of the great differences between the times in which we live and the times of long ago is the fact that today every child can attend a good school, without having to pay money. At school the child learns many other things to help him get the most out of life.

Did you ever stop to think what a fine thing it is that every child can go to school? Once upon a time schools were only for rich children. So most of the people in every country could not read or write, and when they wanted to sign their names they had to make a little mark like this: X.

How different life would be to us if we could



*Family love is the
guiding force
of the nation*

not read or write, so that we could never know what the newspapers were saying or what books can tell us!

But there is another reason why, in a country like ours, people must know how to read and write so as to understand what is happening. Our country is ruled by the people, through the persons that they pick out to make the laws and govern the nation. All our rulers, from the mayor of the city where we live, to the President of the United States, are elected by the people themselves.

In order to choose good and wise men to rule the country, we must know a great deal. We must study the problems of our city, our state, and our country, and then we must pick out the persons who we think will be best able to settle these problems and make good laws. So all our boys and girls must get the best possible education in order to help rule the country when they grow up and become citizens. And some of them will be the ones

*Why should
people learn
to read and
write?*

*Who pays
for schools?*

that the others pick out to be mayors and governors and even presidents.

Of course, all parents could not afford to pay for sending their children to school. So people owning property are taxed—made to give money—to build schoolhouses, to buy books for the pupils, and to pay the teachers.

Usually boys and girls must go to school until they are at least sixteen years old. Many of them go to high school. And there are colleges and universities where boys and girls may go on to higher studies.

There are also free evening schools for those who have to go to work early, and for grown-up people who want to learn more things than they could when they were young. Many public schools teach trades by which boys and girls can earn a good living.

It is an old saying that “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” That is true when the work that Jack does is going to school and studying his lessons. Every child must

also have a chance for plenty of good health-making play.

Children always have wanted to play. We saw how in those ancient tribes the children had their games in which they learned skill in the doing of things that they would want to do when they grew up. That is one of the reasons for play.

There are other reasons, too, why play is not just wasting time, unless one does too much of it. All children need exercise, and the right kind of play helps them to build up strong bodies, so that they can do their part of the world's work when they grow up and become fathers and mothers. Also, it gives them lessons in how to "play the game" with people outside of the family; that is, how to act fair and square with others.

When a boy plays on a baseball team, he must forget about himself as much as he can and work with all the other members of the team, so that it may win a victory. If each

*Is playing
wasting time?*

boy thought only about getting something for himself, then the team would never win. So it is in life, in the groups of which grown-up people are members. We have to work with others for the good of the group.

*What good
are games?*

As we said before, all children naturally like to play. As soon as a child is old enough to run around he wants to play. If he has not been taught any games he will make up some. We all know how much fun a little boy can get out of a few blocks, or a little girl out of a rag doll. Playing alone is better than not playing at all. But it is not nearly so good as playing with others, and the more the better. So children should have playmates—other boys and girls of their own age to play with.

Then they can play real games, with ever so much more fun, because in playing with others you have to keep your eyes and ears wide open all the time, and to watch sharply what the others are doing, so as to know what to do yourself and the right time to do it.

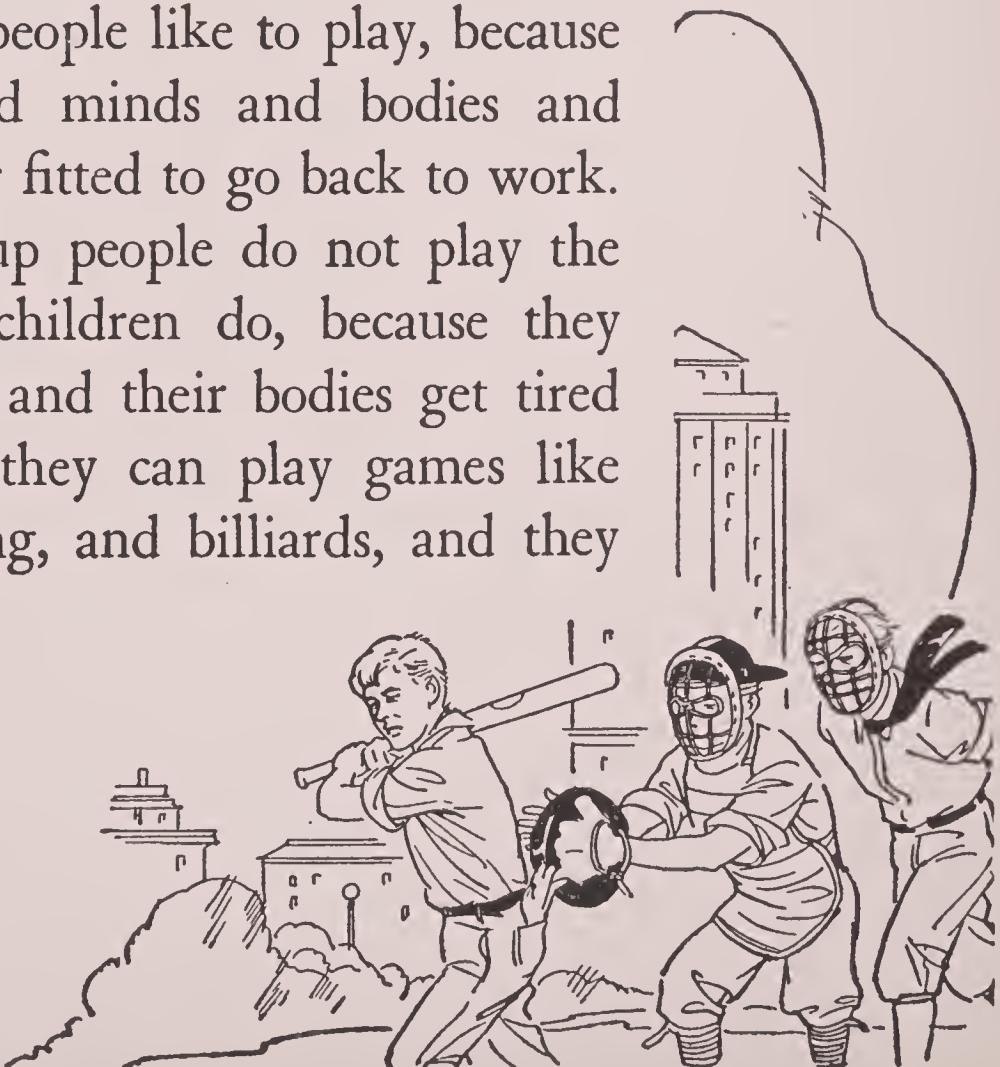
A boy always gets a great thrill when his team wins a hard-fought game, and he knows that he has helped the team to win. When he has played his part well, then all the others on the team will praise him and will be proud of him, and that will make him very happy.

Nowadays, children have more time and a better chance to play than they ever did before. It is easier for children of the same age to get together for play. In our towns and cities, where so many thousands of children live, there are fine parks and playgrounds and swimming pools or beaches open to all children who want to play there.

Even grown-up people like to play, because play refreshes tired minds and bodies and makes people better fitted to go back to work. Of course, grown-up people do not play the same games that children do, because they cannot run so fast and their bodies get tired more easily. But they can play games like tennis, golf, bowling, and billiards, and they

*Are there many
chances to play?*

*Teamwork teaches
us to play our
parts well*



*What has play
to do with
bad habits?*

like to watch younger people play baseball, football, basketball, and other games.

It is another old saying that idle hands soon get into mischief. If boys and girls do not have a chance for the right kind of play, they are likely to get into bad habits when they have nothing else to do. We shall see later how boys sometimes join gangs and sometimes disobey the laws, so that they have to be punished. A boy who learns to play clean, health-building games in his spare time is less likely to get into trouble.

Any boy, if he has plenty of the right kind of play, especially on teams with other boys, will not so easily fall into bad habits, for he will see how much better it is to lead a clean life and have everybody his friend. He will be very much happier, both when a boy and when he grows up, for he will have started on the road to real success in life.

It is in these bright years of childhood that we learn how to "play the game" as it must

be played by us later in the great world of grown-ups. Much of success that we win when we become men and women comes from knowing how to "play the game."

And so play is just as important as going to school. Our schools now have playgrounds for the children, where during recess and after school hours they may have fun in playing games. The boys and girls in our high schools and colleges get together into teams and play many thrilling games.

So study and play go hand in hand, because both of them help boys and girls to build up for themselves that which everyone should have who wants to live a happy and worth-while life: that is, a sound mind in a healthy body.

"This is the word that year by year,
While in her place the School is set,
Every one of her sons must hear,
And none that hears it dares forget.
This they all with a joyful mind
Bear through life like a torch of flame,
And falling, fling to the host behind—
'Play up! Play up! And play the game!' "

—SIR HENRY NEWBOLT

*Do study and
play go together?*

*Have there
always been laws?*

CHAPTER VIII

HOW THE PEOPLE MAKE THEIR OWN LAWS

GOVERNMENT did not exist in the tribe as it does in our country today. There were no written or printed laws. There were no courts or policemen, either. Customs and taboos, handed down from the forefathers of the tribe, took the place of laws.

You can see how unnecessary it would be for a family to have policemen to make its members behave themselves.

But when the tribe grew into a nation, the people become much more numerous. They no longer thought of themselves as being blood relatives, all belonging to one and the same family. So it was necessary to work out a different way of governing the nation, and to have rules to make clear the rights and duties

of everybody. Then, too, as people became more civilized, there were more disputes that had to be settled. The land no longer belonged to everybody in common. Each separate person had many things that belonged to him alone, and he wanted his rights protected. So laws were written; laws that everybody had to obey.

But the kind of government was not the same everywhere. Nations such as Egypt had kings. The king ruled the country. He made the laws.

Some of these kings were good men; others were cruel. They could do just as they pleased. There were many good laws for settling disputes among the people, but the people had no rights against the king.

*Who made
the laws?*

In ancient Greece, as we saw when we looked at that country, the land was divided among a number of cities, each of which ruled itself. All the free citizens met together and made the laws, and they elected certain men to see that the laws were obeyed.

We have also read about that wonderful city in Italy called Rome. There, as well as in Greece, the citizens had much more freedom than the people who lived in kingdoms. But many were slaves and had very few rights.

*What did
laws do for
the Romans?*

The Romans made many good laws. When Rome became "the mistress of the world," her laws were so fair that millions of people in the great empire could live together peacefully.

The Roman Empire fell. The Middle Ages brought trouble and strife, but at last new nations began to grow up in Europe. The one that we want to know about is England, because the forefathers of most of us Americans came from there.

In those days, kings ruled in Europe and made the laws giving the common people few rights.

At this time a new people came into England, called *Anglo-Saxons*. They had several little kingdoms in England, which later joined together. Then in the year 1066, a people called

the Normans came into England from France, led by a man named William.

The Normans conquered England. They spoke the French language. After a long time this mingled with the Anglo-Saxon tongue, and so made the English language.

What was the beginning of the English language?

Besides the king, there were many great nobles, who lived in castles scattered over the country. The king was the ruler of the land, and the people often had to bear great wrongs. But the English nobles quarreled with the king and forced him to give them more rights. He had to sign a paper giving them more rights. It was called the Great Charter.

In the meantime, an assembly of men called Parliament was gaining more power. It was something like our Congress. This Parliament came to share with the king the power to make laws for the country. For hundreds of years Parliament struggled, and more and more the people won the right to make the laws through the men that they sent to sit in Parliament.

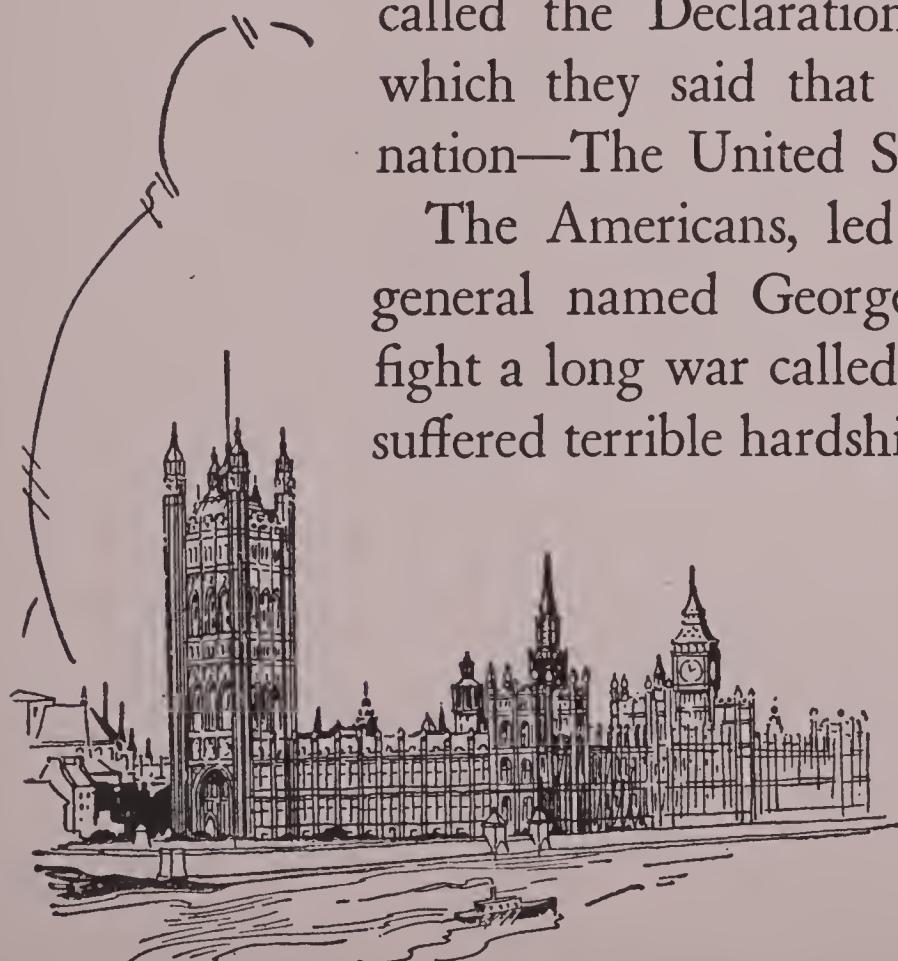
This was called the fight for self-government.

That was how matters stood when little groups of people began sailing to America to make their homes in the New World. They did not like the laws of England. In America they came to have more control over their own affairs. So they set up, in the new country, little colonies, each of which had an assembly or Parliament of its own which made some of the laws for the colony.

*How did the
United States
begin?*

By the year 1776 there were thirteen of these English colonies in North America. When the Parliament of England tried to tax the colonists unjustly, they would not pay the taxes. So in that year they drew up a paper called the Declaration of Independence, in which they said that they were now a free nation—The United States of America.

The Americans, led by a great and noble general named George Washington, had to fight a long war called the Revolution. They suffered terrible hardships but won many great



*Parliament won the
fight for self-
government*

victories. Finally, the king and Parliament of England agreed to make peace, and the United States took its place among the world nations.

A few years later, a number of men from the different States gathered together in Philadelphia. After talking matters over for a long time, these men, who were very wise, wrote out a set of rules called the Constitution.

The new nation, they said, should be a republic, made up of the different States. The people of each State were allowed to rule themselves in most matters, but they also were to send men to a great central body called Congress. This Congress was to make the laws needed by the nation as a whole. The Constitution also said that there should be a man at the head of the nation, called the President, who should see that the laws were obeyed. Then, too, they decided that there should be a Supreme Court for the settling of serious disputes and to tell just what the Constitution means and to explain new laws.

*Who makes
our laws?*

Each city, through its mayor and city council, makes certain laws that are in force only in the city. Among these there are laws saying how houses shall be built so that they will be safe and not likely to catch fire, and laws about driving cars in the streets, to prevent people from being killed. There are policemen to see that the laws are obeyed.

What do the states do?

Then in each State there is a body of men called the Legislature, which makes laws for the whole State, such as laws for the payment of taxes (to get money to pay the cost of government), the building of roads, and keeping the people in good health. The man at the head of the State is called the Governor. The State courts settle disputes between people in the State and make clear what the laws mean.

All of our very important laws are either State laws or Federal (national) laws. They are made in very nearly the same way. As the State is closer to us, let us see how a law is made in the State in which we live.

Suppose the citizens of a town think it would be a fine thing to have a good, wide road built to connect their town with other towns in the State, so that everybody can drive to those towns more quickly and easily.

First, they will talk the matter over among themselves. Then they will go to see the man who represents them in the House of Representatives, which is one of the two branches of the State Legislature. They tell him all about the reasons why this road should be built. If he thinks it is a good plan, then a man called a lawyer, who knows how laws should be written, is called in and asked to put the plan in the form of a bill. A bill is a written form of the law the citizen thinks should be made.

Every law must also be passed by another group in the Legislature, called the Senate. Thus the people who want to have this law made will want to talk it over with the man in the Senate who has been elected from the district in which they have their homes.

*How does
a law start?*

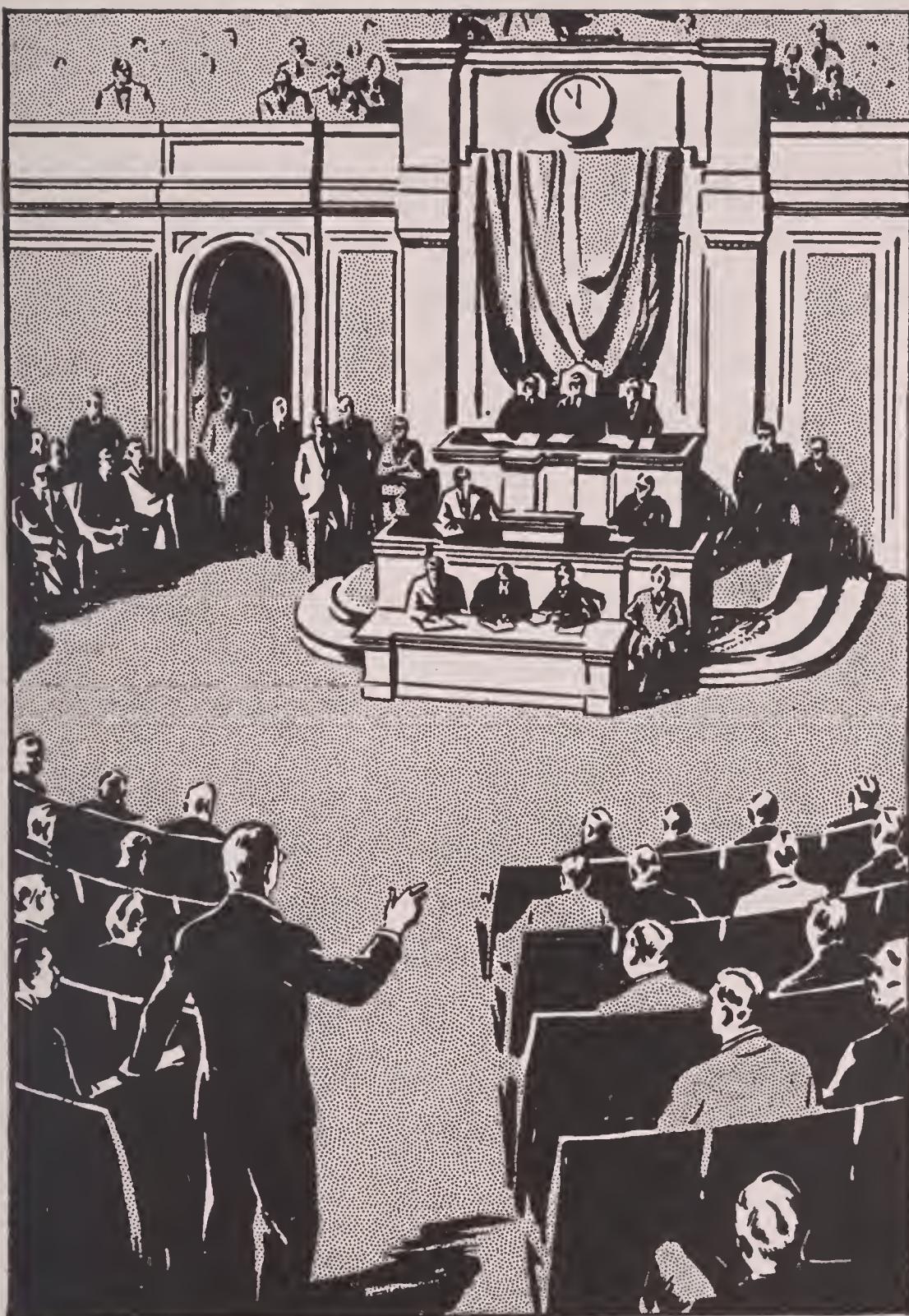
Then, when the Legislature meets, the bill which tells about the law these people want will be given to the law-makers. It must be brought to them early, to be sure of passing.

Next, we will see what happens to the bill when it is brought to the House of Representatives. First, the title of the bill—that is, the heading of it, which tells what it is about—is read to the whole group of law-makers. The bill is given a number, and some copies of it are printed. That is the first reading.

Now the House is divided into smaller groups called committees. Each committee studies all the bills on a certain subject, such as new roads. So this bill is sent to the committee that knows about the need of roads, the cost of building them, and so on.

If the committee finally makes up its mind that the bill is a good one, it sends the bill back to the House of Representatives, saying that it thinks such a law should be passed. But if the committee, after going carefully into

*What does a
committee do?*



*When the Legislature meets, the bill the people want
as a law will be given to the law-makers*

the matter, feels that this bill should not be made into a law it takes no action in the matter, and the bill is said to be "dead."

How are bills changed?

We will suppose that the committee sends the bill back to the House, saying that they think the bill should be passed. Then a time is set for a second reading by the law-makers. When the day comes for this second reading, a man called the clerk reads aloud the number and title of the bill in the meeting-room of the House. In the meantime, the law-makers have been studying the printed copies of the bill, so that when the matter comes up in the House they can discuss it with each other. Certain changes may then be made in the bill.

Then the law-makers take the bill and study it some more until it comes up again in the House for the third and last reading. At that time the House finally decides, by each man voting "Yes" or "No," whether to make the bill a law or not. If a majority (more than half) of the law-makers vote for the bill, it is

said to be “passed”; but if a majority vote against it, then the bill is said to be “lost,” and it cannot become a law.

Supposing that the bill is passed, let us see what happens next, for it is not yet a law. A man called the Speaker of the House signs the bill and it is sent to the Senate.

As we noticed, a copy of the same bill was brought to the Senate at the same time that a copy was brought to the House. In the Senate the very same thing happens to the bill that happened in the House. It was sent to a committee, and the law-makers in the Senate studied it and made speeches about it. Probably they, just as did the House, made some changes in it. Then, if a majority of the Senate law-makers voted for the bill, the officer called the Speaker or President of the Senate signed the bill and sent it to the House.

So now the Senate has a copy of the bill as passed by the House, and the House has a copy of the bill as passed by the Senate. Per-

*What does the
Senate do?*

haps each group of law-makers has made different changes in it. If so, the matter is turned over to a committee made up of members of both the House and the Senate, who talk the matter over and decide how they can put the bill into such shape that it will please all the law-makers.

*How does
the bill become
a law?*

When they have done so, the bill goes back to the House and to the Senate, and if they are satisfied with it now, they give their consent by voting again. After that, the bill is sent to the Governor of the State. If he thinks that such a law is a good one, he signs the bill and says that it shall now be a law. Then it will be turned over to the men who have charge of the building of roads, and soon the road will be built. The cost will be taken care of by money which the people have paid as taxes.

Of course, it might happen that the Governor, after studying the bill, does not think that it should be made a law. Then he does not sign it. We say that he "vetoed" the bill.

Does that end the matter? No, the law-makers study and talk about the bill some more. If they are still so sure that it ought to become a law that two-thirds of those in the House and two-thirds of those in the Senate vote for it, then the bill does become a law. Even the Governor cannot stop the people from making a law if they are very sure that such a law is wanted and that they are determined to have it.

Still, it is wise to give the Governor the right to "veto" a law. It prevents the law-makers from being careless and making laws that they should not make, for they know that the Governor will not sign a law if he thinks it is not a good one. Perhaps in some cases the Governor may simply say that some further changes should be made in the new law, and that if this is done he will sign it.

*What is a
veto?*

So that is the way that the people make their laws in each State. And in our city government and in our national government the people make their laws in about the same way.

Now, if the law-makers should happen to make a law that is against some rule in the Constitution, and even if the Governor signs it, then the Supreme Court may say that it is against the Constitution and that it shall not be put in force.

*Are all laws
made the same
way?*

All other great nations like ours make their laws in very much the same way. For instance, even though England still has a king, it is the people who really make the laws, through the men that they send to Parliament.

It took many centuries and a very long struggle for the people to win the right to make their own laws, instead of being forced to obey laws that were made by a king or emperor to suit himself.

People cannot live together happily unless they have good laws. So we must select law-makers who are wise men and who will see to it that the laws that are made are good ones.

CHAPTER IX

OTHER RULES THAT TELL US HOW TO ACT

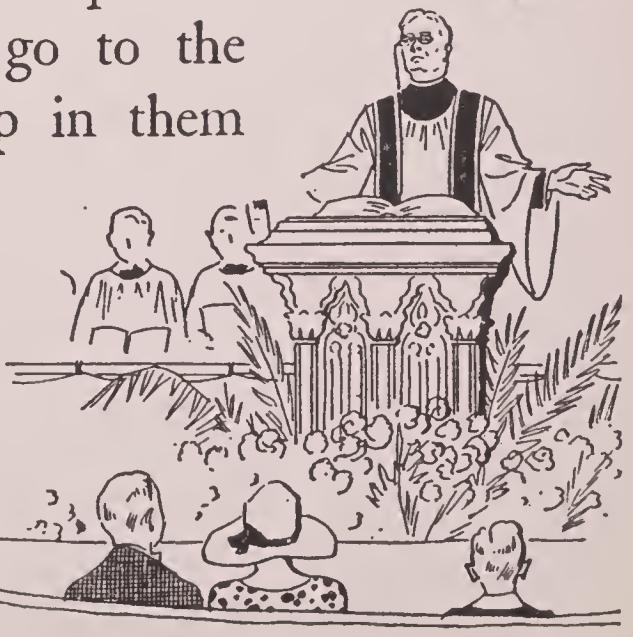
LAWS of many kinds tell people what they should do and what they should not do. Some of these laws have been in force, almost all over the world, for hundreds of years, because without them no one's life or things that he owns would be safe.

If a person does something that the law says he should not do, then he is punished for it.

But besides laws, there are a great many things called *social forces*. These are influences which have a lot to do with the way we behave in our daily life. Some of them are (1) religion and conscience, (2) education, (3) custom, (4) fashion, and (5) public opinion.

Religion tells the people who go to the churches or who were brought up in them

*Are laws
the only rules
we have?*



*Religion is one of
the social forces*

when children, what acts are pleasing to God and what acts are not. A person may not do a certain thing that is wrong because he believes that God will be sorry or may even punish him; or he may want to do something else because he believes that it will please God.

Conscience is very much like religion. It is the feeling we have within us which tells us when we have done wrong and makes us feel ashamed of ourselves.

Education, too, helps to tell us how we should behave. It makes us want to live in a spirit of good-will and helpfulness to others. A well educated person should know how foolish it is to do things which sooner or later will cause trouble to himself as well as to others.

What are customs?

Customs are the ways that people have been in the habit of acting for a long time. We do many things because it is the custom to do them, and we keep from doing other things because it is not the custom to do them.

For instance, it is a custom that men should do everything they can to protect women and children when necessary; it is a custom that we should show respect to old people; and it is a custom that a gentleman should lift his hat when he meets a lady on the street. Some customs, of course, are much more important than others.

Very much like custom is that which we call *fashion*. A fashion is a new custom. If it lasts a long time, then it may become a custom. But most fashions quickly disappear after people get tired of them.

What are fashions?

A fashion is simply something that we want to do because other people are doing it. A certain kind of hat is “all the style” one year, but the next year nobody wants to wear a hat of that kind.

The reason that customs and fashions have so strong a hold upon people is that a person likes to do what others whom he admires are doing. If he does not then the people with

What is public opinion?

whom he lives think he is a little bit “queer,” and very few persons want that to happen.

Then there is public opinion. That is a very strong force in making us act in certain ways. Everybody likes to be praised or thought well of by others. If a person tells lies and cheats, then all those who know him will say unpleasant things about him. But if he is fair and honorable in all that he says and does, his neighbors will like him.

“Good name in man and woman, dear my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls:
Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed.”

—SHAKESPEARE

CHAPTER X

WHAT THE CROWD AND THE GROUP DO TO US

STRANGE as it may seem, when people come together in a crowd they are apt to act quite differently from the way they do when any one of them is alone. If you have been to a football game in one of the great stadiums, or to a baseball game between teams of two major leagues, you will remember how the people in the stands, sometimes quite elderly persons, jumped up from their seats, stamped their feet, waved their hats, cheered, and shouted.

*How do
crowds act?*

If a person were all alone, he would not be likely to act like that. In fact, a crowd will often act in a way that the persons in it are ashamed of afterwards.

So we ask, why do people when together in

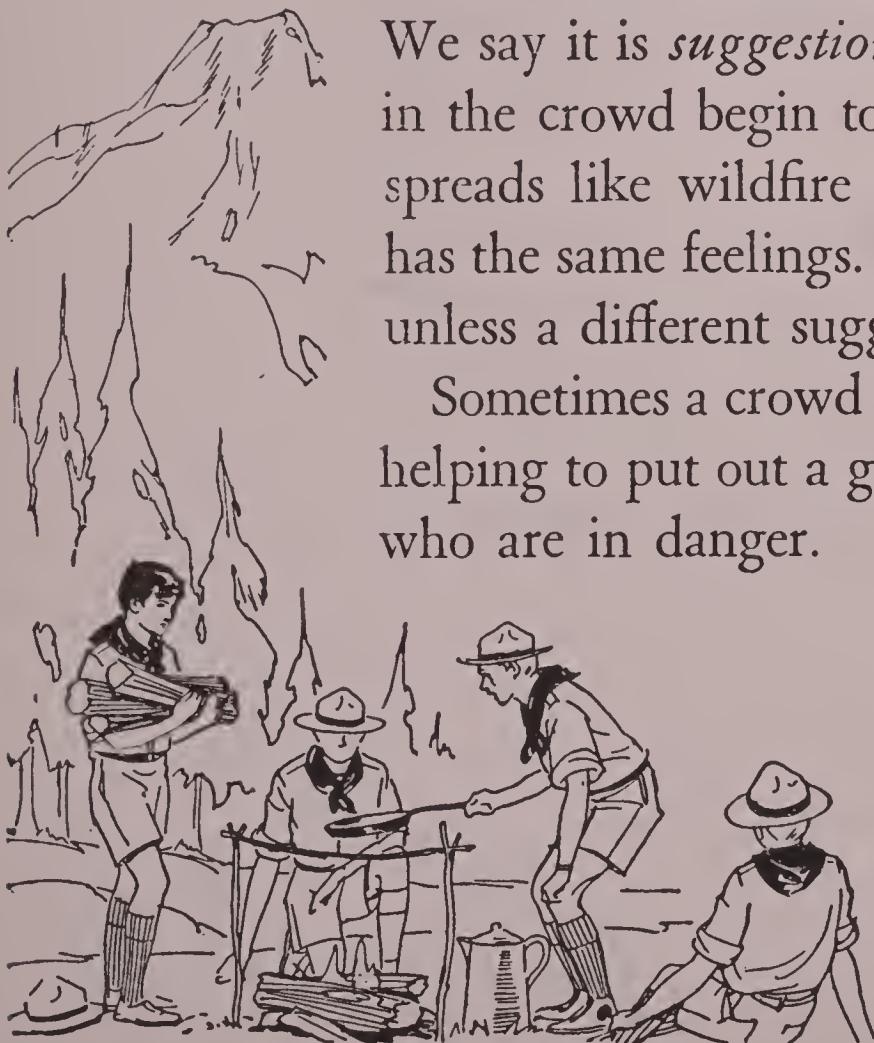
crowds behave the way they do? The answer is, in the first place, because the people who make up the crowd sometimes forget themselves. They are just a part of the crowd, which acts as it pleases. Sometimes a crowd, when it is an angry mob, will do dreadful things.

*Why do crowds
act as they do?*

A crowd in action really does not think; we say that it acts on its feelings. It has a sense of great power. And a person in a crowd knows that he will not be blamed for what the whole crowd does. So he often does things that he would never dream of doing if he were alone and had to answer for what he did.

But what makes a crowd want to do things? We say it is *suggestion*. One or more persons in the crowd begin to do something, and this spreads like wildfire if the rest of the crowd has the same feelings. Then the thing is done, unless a different suggestion gets started.

Sometimes a crowd may do good things, like helping to put out a great fire or saving people who are in danger.



*Group influence
can do great
good*

In listening to a fine speaker a crowd will often get so excited that it will believe anything the man says, or will do anything he wants it to do. If the speaker is an evil man, and the crowd hates some one, he may make the crowd do something harmful.

Another kind of crowd that behaves in very evil ways is the *gang*. We read and hear a great deal about the trouble caused by gangs in every large city. A gang is a group of boys or men who may only disturb people, or may commit crimes. A gangster is often an enemy of the city. Many a gangster ends up in prison; or, if he has killed somebody, he may be put to death.

What is a gang?

Let us remember that people who come together into a group influence each other very deeply. It is true of boys and girls. For instance, when a boy joins the Boy Scouts, he knows that he should live up to the Boy Scout rules of honor and manliness.

We see the same thing in schools and colleges. Boys and girls are proud of the school

or the college that they attend. They catch the spirit of the place, and they want to add glory to its name.

So, too, all of us as citizens want to hold high the honor of our city and of our country. We do not want to disgrace either of them. We try to set an example to each other as good citizens.

*What is
patriotism?*

This feeling of loyalty to the group of which we are a part we call *group pride*. Our love for our city we call *civic pride*. And our love for our country we call *patriotism*. Readiness to do things for our group we call *morale*.

When the people of all the different countries get to know each other better, they will be proud that they all belong to the great group called *mankind*. Then nations will see that it is a mistake to quarrel and make war. They will want to help each other. In that way each one will best help itself. And each nation, by doing well its share of the world's work, will be honored by all the others.

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